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ASSESSMENTS OF OMERCOTE AND NARRA DISTRICTS

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SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

No. XXI.—New Series.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

ASSESSMENTS OF THE OMERCOTE AND NARRA DISTRICTS, IN SIND;

AND

STATISTICAL RETURNS OF THE PROVINCE OF SIND, FOR THE YEAR 1853-54.

110040

Bombay:

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1855.

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ASSESSMENT OF THE OMERCOTE AND NARRA DISTRICTS.

No. 62 of 1855.

Territorial Department,
Revenue.

From the COMMISSIONER IN SIND,

To the Right Honorable LORD ELPHINSTONE, G.C.H.,
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

Dated 12th February 1855.

My Lord,

See page 3 of Selection No. XVIII. (New Series).

Enclosures Nos. 2 and 3:
No. 201, of the 19th January, relative to the Assessment of the Omercote Desert.
No. 254, of the 23rd January, relative to the Assessment of the Narra.

In reference to my letter noted in the margin, I have the honour to forward copies of two Memoranda addressed to the Collector of Hydrabad, regarding the Assessment of the Omercote and Narra districts, the relative positions of which are shown in the annexed rough Sketch.

I.—OMERCOTE.

2. The Omercote desert is bounded to the west by the level plain of the Narra, and the Meerpoor and Jooda districts of Sind; to the north by a strip of desert under the Narra Kardarate, which separates it from Meer Ali Morad's desert district of Aradeen; to the east by Jodhpoor; and to the south by the Thurr. It is between 60 and 70 miles in length east and west, and between 50 and 60 in width from north to south: is composed of sandhills and sandy undulating ground, occasionally interspersed with patches of level ground very rarely exceeding half a mile in diameter. On its western border it rises, like land from the sea, to a general height of from 50 to 100 feet above the dead level of the plain of Sind, and some of the highest sandhills may be 100

feet more. They are not so high nor so regular, nor so well clothed with grass and brushwood as the sandhills of the Thurr to the south, nor so loose and bare as those of the desert further north, the difference being partly due to original formation and partly to the comparative scarcity of rain as you go north from the border of the Runn of Kutch.

3. Except on the border towards Sind, the water is everywhere deep and generally brackish. 40 fathoms is a common depth for the wells; 60 (I am told) not at all unusual to the east and north.

4. Omercote, and Guddra on the Jodhpoor frontier, are the principal towns, with traders' shops and houses of unbaked bricks. At Cheylar and a few other places there are several Banians' shops and a considerable number of houses; but, with very few exceptions, all are of the ordinary desert pattern and materials, viz. a beehive-shaped wigwam, composed of a framework of boughs and sticks, with a thick covering of twigs and grass.

5. The whole population was returned last March at 20,488 souls, inhabiting 5,045 houses. This is probably under the mark, as the season had been a bad one for grazing, and, at the time the census was taken, numbers of the able-bodied male population especially were absent with their flocks and herds, driven to other districts to graze.

6. With the exception of a few Syuds, Beloochees, and other Sindians in the western villages, the upper classes are mostly Soda Rajpoots, who conquered the country from the Somras about 350 years ago, and were themselves subdued by the Kulloras of Sind about a century since; from which time, with a brief interval of Jodhpoor supremacy, the district has been subject to Sind.

7. The Rana of Omercote is regarded as head of the tribe, numbers of which are found, generally as Thakoors, Patels, and superior Zemindars, in almost every village as far north as the Aradeen boundary, and south as far as Nuggur Parkur. They always claim to be Zemindars, or lords of the soil.

8. The Sodas have many of the good qualities and most of the failings of the Rajpoots, among the superior tribes of which race they are, I believe, numbered. Their most remarkable social characteristic is their custom of giving their daughters in marriage to other tribes and even other races. In many of the households of the Meers they had, as among the Jarrejas, their brother Rajpoots in Kutch, the position of Georgians or Circassians in Turkey, and more than one Belooch Sirdar has introduced to me a Soda Chief as his brother-in-law.

9. Among the trading classes, besides the usual Banian tribes of Sind, one or two classes of Bramins and Krar and other Marwar tribes of Banians are found.

10. Of the lower orders, the most numerous are Bheels or Koolies, and Megwas, a class in occupation and position intermediate between the Dhers or Mhars and the Chambars of India, and generally remarkable for their inoffensive habits and industry.

11. The dress, manners, and speech of all classes bespeak their proximity to, and constant intercourse with, Marwar.

12. The people live principally on the produce of their flocks and herds. There is generally some rain, which speedily produces a crop of excellent sweet grass, and, even in dry seasons, many of the shrubs afford excellent browsing for sheep, goats, and camels: the latter are of celebrated breeds, and command high prices in all the neighbouring provinces. Horned cattle of a very good description are reared in great quantities, and find a market as far south as Ahmedabad.

13. The fields,* which now form the only subject of taxation by Government, are generally the level bottoms between sandhills, where the water lodges, and where there is usually a small quantity of vegetable or alluvial soil. Even the sand, however, gives good crops of Bajree in situations where water lodges when rain is abundant.

14. No fallows are required, and though the rain, and consequently the crop, is uncertain, the site of cultivation is not subject to constant change, as on most lands in Sind.

15. Lightly taxed and very little interfered with, the people might have been expected to be prosperous and contented; but the reverse was the case to a degree very striking to any one who came, as I did, from the orderly and contented districts of Thurr and Parkur.

16. Complaint and discontent met me even before I crossed the frontier, and did not decrease as I proceeded onwards.

17. The cause of this was not difficult to discover, when the details of the previous history of our rule in this district became known.

18. An abstract of the correspondence on the records relating to Omercote will be forwarded hereafter;† in the meantime the following summary may suffice.

19. For some years after the Conquest little notice appears to have been taken of Omercote, which formed part of the Deputy Collectorate of Meerpoor. No Revenue Officer seems to have visited the district, and the forts of Omercote, Cheylar, Chachra, and Kodee being at first held by detachments from Deesa, what little might have been learned from the Officers in command was not made known to the Authorities in Sind.

20. Meantime the inhabitants were subjected to various general measures, which, even when in themselves just and necessary, were not always very

* Locally called "Tullees." † Vide Enclosure No. 1.

palatable to the Sodas, who, under the Ameers, appear to have managed to keep a considerable share of local power in their hands.

21. Among such measures may be mentioned the general abolition of all the emoluments in fields and rent-free lands formerly enjoyed by Patels and heads of villages, and of a cess of considerable amount which the Sodas levied on the marriages of Hindoos, and which was valued, not only as a source of income, but as one of the few relics of their ancient sovereign power. The Chiefs were also deprived of their arms, though they belonged to the class which, by the late Governor's proclamation, was allowed to carry arms as a mark of rank, and as a reward for prompt submission to the British Government; and their treatment was in no respect better than that received by the ordinary Zemindars elsewhere.

22. In 1846 the discontent became so general, that several influential persons left their homes as avowed outlaws. Not only were cattle carried off by bands of armed robbers, but persons were kidnapped and held to ransom. One such outrage was perpetrated on the person of a Banian and his wife, who were carried off from their house at Cheylar, within a few hundred yards of the fort, garrisoned by a detachment of Native Infantry, the Native Officer commanding which declined to move out his men in pursuit. The district was reported by the Deputy Collector of Meerpoor and Collector of Hydrabad to be in rebellion; troops were asked for; and the offer of a reward of Rs. 1,000 for Rutton Soda, one of the principal offenders, dead or alive, was sanctioned among other means of restoring peace.

23. This man was ultimately induced to come in, and was not only forgiven, but considerable concessions were made to him and his tribe, pensions to the amount of Rs. 700 per annum being assigned to the Chiefs in lieu of the marriage fees.

24. The concessions were, however, much less valuable in amount, and were made in a very different spirit from those spontaneously granted, at Colonel Roberts' suggestion, on the first introduction of our rule in the Thurr and Parkur districts, and they consequently never had the same effect of rendering the people grateful or contented.

25. Quiet was, however, restored; a light rate of Buttai was introduced; and there has been no subsequent attempt to disturb the peace.

Amount of lease from 1850-51 to 1853-54, Rs. 6,389.

26. In 1850 the district was leased out like the rest of the Collectorate, the leaseholders being the principal Soda Zemindars.

27. The settlement was fixed on a light average of former years; the seasons were favourable, rain being abundant; and there was little in the shape of complaint or otherwise heard of in the district.

28. The leaseholders generally collected from their sub-tenants in kind;

from others in cash, at the rate of Rs. 3 on a cultivated field, and Rs. 1 from every field prepared for cultivation but not sown.

29. The lease terminated last year; and here, as elsewhere, the want of any useful record beyond the gross amount of collections, whereby to guide future proceedings, was severely felt.

30. Nor was much information to be got from other sources. The district had been rarely visited. It was separated from Meerpoor by 40 miles of level, hard, alluvial soil like the NW. desert, locally called "Put," and till the Narra came down and overflowed the plain, there was hardly a well, a field, a permanent habitation, or sign of human life to be seen the whole way. Meerpoor itself was considered a remote and desert spot, so that it is hardly to be wondered at that Omercote, 40 miles further and in the desert itself, was regarded almost as a *terra incognita.*

31. The most intelligent people at Omercote itself could only reckon up eight visits from European Civil Officers, of which only two were from the Collector, in eleven years. Few, if any, of the villages in the interior of the desert, I was assured, had ever been visited till Lieutenants Tyrwhitt and Naylor went round them this year.

32. It is not surprising that the Native functionaries followed the same example, and that the Kardar, who had been four years in the district, knew little or nothing, from personal observation, of any place but Omercote.

33. The principal Soda Chiefs, believing that they might presume on the general ignorance and indifference regarding the district, declined to renew their lease on what were obviously reasonable terms. Lieutenant Tyrwhitt having unexpectedly visited the desert, and found that the season had been a very favourable one, declined to let them renew the lease on their own terms. A Syud of considerable influence and respectability, who had been concerned in the management of the district under the Meers, came forward and took the lease for the year at Rs. 12,300, agreeing to collect in kind from all the cultivators, according to the local custom, of a third of the gross produce, as estimated by arbitrators, from the growing crops. When the Sodas found that this agreement had been concluded with him, they came forward and offered a considerably larger sum to retain the management in their own hands, but the agreement had already been closed with the Syud.

34. The system was not one which I should have approved of under ordinary circumstances; but I learned what had been done too late to apply any remedy this year. This is perhaps the less to be regretted, as the inquiries made by the leaseholder, and the discussions to which his assessments gave rise, have furnished data for estimating approximately the fair assessment of the district, regarding which there was previously no information of any practical value on record; and after a patient inquiry into all complaints on

the subject, I felt satisfied, that without over-assessing the people, he will not only reap a large profit, but that a much larger amount might have been demanded this season without exceeding the sum which Government has a right to expect. I may add that all the poorer cultivators, all, in fact, but the Soda Chiefs themselves, seemed better satisfied with the present year's arrangements than with any they had known before.

35. Leaving therefore unaltered the settlements of the current season, I endeavoured to lay down a plan for avoiding uncertainty and arbitrary settlements for the future, and, while securing all cultivators, including the poorest class, from over-assessment, to restore to the Chiefs and Patels that legitimate position and authority, the want of which is, I think, one capital defect of the system heretofore in force throughout Sind. After hearing what the principal Chiefs and others had to say as to the wishes of the cultivators and the practice of the neighbouring districts of the Thurr and Jodhpoor, the enclosed Memorandum of Instructions was drawn up, and I trust that the settlements which Lieutenant Tyrwhitt will effect, if not the best which local peculiarities will admit of, will be a considerable advance towards a settled and light system of Assessment. The details, as explained to both Chiefs and cultivators, appeared to give much satisfaction, and I have great reliance on the zeal, energy, and temper of Lieutenant Tyrwhitt, who is deservedly popular among all classes, and who will, I have no doubt, draw the Chiefs from the state of isolation and depression in which they have so long lived.

II.—THE NARRA TALOOKA.

36. Of the Narra district almost less was known than of Omercote. But a small portion even of its boundary is accurately ascertained.

37. It consists of two divisions, the "Registan" or desert, and the Narra "Put" or alluvial plain.

First.—The former is a portion of desert intervening between the Omercote desert and Meer Ali Morad's desert district of Aradeen, bounded on the west by the channel of the Narra, which separates it from the level plain of Sind, and on the east by Jodhpoor. The inhabitants of this portion apparently differ little from those of the Omercote desert, but I could not learn that any European Officer, or even any intelligent Native, had *ever* visited them.

Second.—The Put is a portion of the level alluvial plain of Sind, of an irregular triangular shape, one extremity of the base being towards Omercote, the other towards Meerpoor, and the apex near Mitrow. The Narra there issues from the sandhills, which, on the west bank, begin to recede gradually and bend away towards the south-west, disappearing after a few miles in the level plains of the Sukkurund Talooka, while those on the eastern bank, rising as before described more abruptly from the plain, bend to the south-east and

sweep round by Omercote in an unbroken line till they reach the Runn of Kutch.

38. The Narra, whose course as far as Mitrow has been nearly due south, preserves a general direction close to the eastern sandhills.

39. The stream may be best described as the drainage of the low lands on the left bank of the Indus from above Subzulcote to near Roree. The water, which accumulates only in very high inundations in these hollows, unable to return to the main channel of the river, finds an outlet through the sandhills about 20 miles south-east of Roree, and after flowing, as before described, in a nearly direct southerly channel among the sandhills to Mitrow, there emerges into the open alluvial plain.

40. To judge from tradition, the high inundations which enabled the water to reach so far down the channel of the Narra, have occurred at very irregular intervals of from eight to twenty years. Their occurrence appears to depend not only on the height of the inundation above Roree, but on the set of the current in the main river against its banks about Kusmore and Subzulcote.

41. These Narra floods have occurred in each of the three last hot seasons after an interval of many years. As no previous flood had come down during our occupancy of Sind, it is not surprising that very little was known about the country.

42. The alluvial plain from near Mitrow appears to the eye a dead level, but the portions nearest the sandhills of the eastern desert are rather lower than the rest of the plain, so that the flood waters naturally flow along the base of the eastern sandhills. Among these sandhills are depressions, often several miles in diameter, and sinking nearly as much below the general level of the alluvial plain as the sandhills rise above it.

43. Consequently, when the flood emerges from the sandhills and reaches the plain, with a general tendency to keep towards the sandhills, on arriving at one of these depressions (locally known as "Dhunds") it continues pouring in till the Dhund is filled and the surrounding sand thoroughly saturated, before it proceeds onwards in its south-easterly course skirting the edge of the desert. Chains of these Dhunds often communicate with each other, and their extent may be judged from the fact that some of them have been observed to absorb the whole flood, for a period of fifteen days, before the Dhund became sufficiently full to allow the flood to continue its onward passage.

44. When the waters overflow the plain to the westward, it soon dries up after the river subsides, and the flooded portion becomes fit for the Rubee (cold weather) cultivation. The beds of the Dhunds, too, become fit for cultivation as they dry up; but some of them are so deep, that they are said to have retained water during the longest known interval between any two

floods, and have consequently never been dry within the memory of the present generation.

45. The works designed by Lieutenant Fife, and now in course of execution, are in two distinct localities.

First.—A supply channel, thirteen miles in length, leaving the Indus close above the Town of Roree and communicating with the Narra just before it enters the sandhills. This is intended to obviate the uncertainty of the present floods, and to give an annual and certain supply of water to the channel, whatever may be the height of the inundation.

Second.—" Bunds" or dams are to be constructed at various spots, from near Mitrow southwards, across the necks of the channels leading into the principal Dhunds, so as to exclude from them the water of an ordinary flood, and to allow it to pursue its course undiminished by the waste which the Dhunds occasion.

46. The water thus excluded from the Dhunds naturally flows over the plain to the westward, and renders it fit for cultivation. It was owing to the completion, before last hot season, of two of the principal Bunds above Mitrow, that the flood, which would otherwise have been a very trifling one, spread itself out over the plain to a distance of 63 miles, crossing the high road from Meerpoor to Omercote.

47. The permanent inhabitants of this plain are very few. The most thriving are Sindees of the Hingora and Jooneja tribes, the latter giving their name to the Purgunna (Narra Joonejanee), and many Belooch colonies, especially of the Murree tribe. The population is confined to a few small villages down the course of the Narra, and in other spots, few and far between, on the plain itself, where a permanent supply of water, often hardly drinkable by strangers, marks the site of a few huts. The inhabitants, unless greatly belied by their neighbours, generally unite the two professions of cattle breeders and cattle lifters. For the latter profession, their district, separating the grazing lands of the desert from the richly cultivated districts on the Indus, offers peculiar advantages. The level soil is singularly hard, and receives but a very faint impression from the foot, while the robber may travel for miles, in so thinly inhabited a country, without risk of meeting another human being.

48. When, however, the plain has been flooded, every one turns to cultivation, and strangers, whose homes are in the " Desert," or in the Hydrabad districts nearer the river, flock to the spot with their ploughs and cattle. Banians, with donkey loads of seed-grain, are in attendance. As fast as the water dries up, the land is ploughed and sown with wheat and mustard seed. The fields, distinguished by boundary marks hardly to be recognized by any but the owner, are left with so few watchmen, that they appear to be entirely deserted, while the cultivators and their cattle proceed to plough and sow other spots, returning to their own homes when the sowing season is at an end.

Sometimes they carry off with them a bullock stolen from their neighbours; at other times one previously stolen from themselves, and now recognized and recovered among the cattle there assembled.

49. As the grain ripens, the cultivators reassemble to reap it and to take part in its division by Buttai, after which the plain is again deserted till the next flood comes down.

50. It is obvious that to such a locality and among such a population as I have described, where there are few permanent inhabitants and fewer still permanent boundary marks, the ordinary modes of Survey and Assessment can hardly be applied. When the floods become of annual recurrence, recognized boundaries and private property in the several divisions of land will of course spring up, and this process has already commenced; but it is very desirable to anticipate this period, by laying out allotments of land at a time when regularity and uniformity can be secured without hardship. In a district where there are no ravines, mounds, remarkable trees, or other natural landmarks, it is necessary that all the boundaries should be artificial.

51. This may explain several of the rules in Memorandum No. 3, the necessity or practical utility of which, would, under ordinary circumstances, be hardly apparent. I am not positive that better rules may not be framed to meet the very peculiar circumstances of the Narra district and its cultivators. I can only say that those now submitted are the best which I could devise, after consultation with the Collector and his Deputy, and with the few cultivators on the spot who could imagine any mode of Assessment other than Buttai.

52. For the agency by which it is proposed to carry out these measures, I would beg to refer to my letter No. 63 of this day's date.*

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner.

Commissioner's Office, Camp Khyrpoor, 12th February 1855.

P. S.—A Statement of the revenues of the Omercote and Narra districts for each year since the Conquest, will be forwarded hereafter.

The above letter was written before the events described in my letter No. 94, of the 8th instant, in the Political Department, occurred. The delay has been caused by references to fill up the Sketch Map, which is not yet complete, and will be forwarded hereafter.

H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner.

Camp Shikarpoor, 9th March 1855.

See page 144 of Selection No. XVIII. (New Series).

No. 1

Abstract of letter No. 72, dated 18th September 1843, from the Collector of Hydrabad to the then Commissioner in Sind, forwarding Extracts from a letter, dated 13th September 1843, from Lieutenant Forbes, Deputy Collector of Meerpoor.*

The Collector observed that—

"The suggestions regarding the measures to be adopted to put a stop to the evils now caused by Sepoys and Camp-followers in their marches, I beg most strongly to support, as being accordant with the rules on this subject, which have been found to work so well in India.

"In relation to the paragraphs concerning the Omercote Rajpoots, I am sorry to say that Lieutenant Forbes' report only confirms those I have received from the other desert borders of the conduct of this tribe. They have taken advantage of the expulsion of the Ameers, the countenance of the Rao of Kutch, and the supposed British feeling in their favour, to emancipate themselves from all control.

"A party passed through here from Omercote the other day *en route* to wait on the Governor, with a letter from Captain Jackson, Superintendent of Mullanee, to which party Lieutenant Forbes particularly alludes; the persons composing it having been complained of by the Kardar of Omercote as people who would pay no dues. I explained to them that it was the intention of Government to take into consideration, at an early period, the interests of the desert tribes; that I had received instructions to proceed in the cold weather to the southern border, to meet the Political Agent of Kutch, with the view of effecting a settlement; that the disposition of Government was, I knew, most favourable, and that nothing could prevent a happy issue to their affairs but the foolish course they were now pursuing. I told them that till a law has been abrogated by authority, it must be obeyed; that however clearly we might see the hardships under which the Soda Rajpoots labour, and however willing we might be to redress them, this assumption of a right to dictate to Government, and, before troubling themselves about consulting it, throwing off at once all obedience to the laws and stopping payment of every authorised due, was what would tend little to bear out the view they were so anxious to impress us with, of being at once the most suffering and the most patient of men.

"They professed their readiness to attend to my advice, and promised to

* Captain Brown, Engineers. The appointment was afterwards changed to that of Secretary to the Sind Government.

write to their brethren and desire them to change their course of conduct, to wait patiently the decision of Government regarding their claims, and meantime to obey to the letter, as in the Ameers' time, all regulations now in force, however obnoxious they might be. This, it would appear, they have failed to do.

"While on this subject, at the risk of being tedious I would beg to offer a few observations regarding the rights these Soda Rajpoots lay claim to.

"The first is to have their lands given to them on more favourable terms than at present, paying such moderate rent on each pair of bullocks as is paid by the Rajpoots about Balmeer, instead of two-fifths of the produce as at present.

"The second is to be allowed a clear fifth of the taxes of Registan, a right which Shere Mahomed's father promised their tribe, and allowed for a few years after seizing on their country, but which he took an early opportunity of extinguishing.

"The third is to have the right restored of taxing, on the marriage of their daughters, Banians who live within the districts inhabited by their tribe, at the same rate as formerly. They once possessed a right on these occasions to levy a fee of twenty-eight rupees and a half from the bride's father, but Shere Mahomed reduced this, as far as they were concerned, by two rupees, which two he appropriated to himself.

"The fourth claim is, that as the Soda Rajpoots are the descendants of the ancient lords of the soil, they should (subject only to the first named payments) have all their feudal rights restored; be made subject only to their own Chiefs; and especially have the right to root out from the desert all tribes at enmity with themselves, particularly the Koshias, who, by their own account, are villains of the deepest dye.

"Their first request I would most cordially support. The desert is no place to look to for revenue; if we succeed in establishing order there, with a secure passage for merchandize to and from the countries beyond, we shall probably have reaped from it the best advantages it is capable of yielding. The uncertainty of the seasons there, and frequent failure of the crops, make it necessary that if cultivation is to be engaged in at all, it should be capable of being engaged in on easy terms; moreover, every additional acre brought under the plough is an additional guarantee of order, it will keep an additional plunderer from mischief. To establish habits of industry among such a population, therefore, too much could not be sacrificed, were sacrifice necessary; but in this instance, as in most others of a similar kind, I have little doubt that in a few years, the small amount of revenue at present sacrificed would be replaced many fold.

"With regard to the other three propositions, His Excellency will at once see the mischievous tendency of them. That part of the third, relating to the mode in which they purpose disposing of the other desert tribes, as soon as they have

secured their own footing firmly, did appear to me rich in the extreme. With regard to the apparently least objectionable of the three, I would observe, that of taxes and dues there are already far too many existing in Sind, and there are hundreds of persons ready to start forward on the first encouragement and lay claim to others, which have been for years abolished. At this moment therefore—at a time when we are doing everything in our power to remedy the evils which these numerous exactions have inflicted—at a period when we are making every sacrifice ourselves, it does appear to me that it would be a most fatal policy to bring forward claimants to long dormant rights, and empower them to act anew those scenes which we are as fast as possible disconnecting ourselves with, and which we have promised the people shall soon be closed for ever. While our hands are unfettered, while we have little but our own dues to deal with, we shall be free to follow the path of regeneration not only unimpeded but heartily aided and cheered on by all. Once, on the other hand, encumbered ourselves with claims such as these, establish wheel within wheel, right within right, tax within tax, and our course will be closed up with stumblingblocks such as we never shall get over, and of which, having been placed there by ourselves, we shall never, without a breach of faith towards those in whom we have vested the interest, be able to attempt the removal.

"The third and fourth claims put in a clear light the real nature of these Chiefs. While crying out against oppression, their first demand is power to oppress. The fee of two rupees exacted by Shere Mahomed on the marriage of each Banian's daughter is monstrous, but, like the twenty-six and a half taken on the same account, it is the most proper tax in the world when levied by themselves. So perfectly carried away are they by their prejudices, that when I tried to convince them of the absurdity of their conduct, they gravely assured me the tax was most popular with the payers of it. On my suggesting, however, the obviously best arrangement in that case for all parties, the making it voluntary, I found the voluntary principle was expected to prove as poor a pocket-filler in this country as it is expected to be found at home.

"It was the same thing when I reprobated their designs towards the Koshias. These, by their account, were men of yesterday, interlopers and thieves, and had no right to elbow, in their own proper domains, these sons of the former kings!

"I know well, however, that His Excellency, who has long devoted himself to the consideration of the true principles which should actuate Governments, will never be persuaded to adopt this partial and one-sided plan of conferring plenty and happiness on Sind; he will not allow the grievances and claims of these Rajpoots to blind him to the fact that the serfs of these Rajpoots have their grievances and claims and rights too; he will see that there is a pauper population which has been and is now oppressed, as well as the Thakoors

who ruled it, and that its claims to relief, if less loudly expressed, may be even ten times better founded than those of the Chiefs who clamour at his gate. The acmé of oppression is, to be oppressed beyond the heart to complain.

"Our Government is not a Government for this class or for that class. We must show at starting that it will prove equally the father and protector of all; Koshias and Sodas must live in peace together; the serf and slave must have their interests attended to as well as their lords and masters; and if we find we have wolves to deal with as well as lambs, we must endeavour to change the nature of their appetite, not attempt to pacify them by letting them run riot in the fold. These Thakoors, however, enter little into this spirit; they can see nothing but justice in their own exactions, nothing but the greatest oppression in those under which they labour. The poor shepherds whom they swindled out of the money paid by Captain Jackson for supplies furnished, were rightly served; but taxes and dues of any kind to Government are extortions too monstrous for men of their rank to be made to submit to. The interests of the body of the people with them are nothing; all in this world worthy of consideration are the shares Sovereigns and Chiefs should have respectively in the comman plunder. Like the lion's fellow hunters in the fable, they feel deeply the injustice of the monarch in his division of the game; but they do not bestow a thought on the case of the poor brute whose carcass they would so equitably divide."

Extracts from Lieutenant Forbes' letter.

Relating to Conduct of Troops marching between Omercote and Meerpoor.

"All classes between this and Meerpoor complain, and, as far as I can judge, not without reason, of the ill treatment they receive from Sepoys and Camp-followers travelling this route.

"The small village of Goloor, 26 miles on this side Meerpoor, I found entirely deserted on this account; the head man, a Syud, having moved with all his effects to within a short distance of Meerpoor.

"I would recommend that I should be made acquainted with the intended route and date of intended arrival in my district of all parties passing through it, *particularly if unaccompanied by an European Officer.* If this is done, I will send a Peon or one of the Mounted Police with them, making *him* answerable that nothing is either taken by force or without payment.

"I would also recommend that all Camp-followers should be furnished with certificates, to be shown either to me or to the Officer commanding the troops at Meerpoor, which will lead to their detection if any complaints are made against them.

"I wish the Rajpoots would return with the General's answer. I had those here up to-day, and told them, that until I got other orders, the Kardar was to collect taxes, and that they had nothing to do with them. No taxes have been levied for the last three months and a half, and all owing to the interference of those who had nothing to do with it, and to the Kardar not acting up to his orders. *They are plain enough,* and he ought to have paid no attention to the *Rajpoots or any one else.*

Relating to Conduct of Rajpoot Thakoors at Omercote.

"The Rajpoots are all like so many Griffs on first coming out to India, talking about their rights, and trying all they can, in an underhand way, to prevent the taxes being collected. I don't see what we have to do with men's rights; we ought to consider what is best for the country, and that this ought under us to be in time a very rich place I think there is little doubt; whereas, under the Rajpoots, it will remain, as it is, almost a desert. Since I came here, I have had more complaints against the headman of this town than all the others put together. Jackson, on leaving this, very wisely took a receipt for the money he paid the Rajpoot Patel for supplies. He has kept all this himself, and the Bukreewallas, if I had not come here, would never have received a pice."

To this the Secretary to the Sind Government replied, under date the 25th September 1843, No. 742:—

"I am directed to inform you, that steps will be taken to prevent Sepoys and Camp-followers committing oppression on the villagers between Hydrabad and Meerpoor.

"You will, pending further instructions, treat the Soda Rajpoots similarly to such other Chiefs of Sind as may have made their salams to His Excellency the Governor."

The Collector of Hydrabad, on the 1st October 1846, No. 744, forwards copy of a letter and enclosure from Lieutenant Forbes, Deputy Collector, Meerpoor, in reference to the robberies being committed at Omercote.

No. 31, of the 17th September 1846.

Lieutenant Forbes remarked that—

"In forwarding copies of letters from the Kardar and Chiefs of Omercote, and copies of petitions from the Krar Banians received this day, I have the honour to inform you, that I have sent off a party of the Mounted Police to seize the Rana of Omercote and Chiefs Ankjee and Muljee (Sodas), with orders to detain them prisoners until my arrival, which will be on Monday morning the 21st at furthest. I am informed that the robbers named have crossed into the Jodhpoor territory, but in apprehending them I anticipate no difficulty,

provided the Rana of Omercote and abovenamed Chiefs, whose tools they undoubtedly are, are first secured.

"The tax referred to in the letter of the Rana and Chiefs is the one formerly levied by them on all marriages between persons of the Krar caste.

"As I expect that for some months it will be necessary to keep several parties of Mounted Police in the desert, I would beg strongly to recommend that permission should be given me to entertain, for service there, some 20 to 25 men, natives of the Registan, mounted on their camels. The long marches through deep heavy sand are most trying for horses; many die in consequence; and all return, after being there for any time on duty, in the worst condition."

Enclosure to above, from the Kardar of Omercote, dated 17th September 1846.

"Informing of his arrival at Omercote. Forwarding the petition of Mania Banian. Informing that unless something was immediately done to put a stop to robberies, they will continue to be committed in the Town (of Omercote), as the relations of the robbers live at Omercote, and all the Sodas having agreed together, are robbing. If the relations of robbers are called upon to produce them, it will be done. The four camels formerly reported as having been stolen from Hurchund, Sutram, and Vishna (Banians) of Chachra, have lately, through the instrumentality of Shamoo Soda, been recovered on payment of a sum of money. The Sodas and Rajpoots of Omercote and its neighbourhood have an idea that by robbing, Government will in some way make a provision for them to induce them to discontinue the practice. That unless something is done, the poor will be very badly off, as others will join the robbers. That he had sent for Ranna, Mehraj, Muljee, and Akkeeraj (Sodas), Chiefs of Omercote, to consult with them on this subject, and forward their statement with that of the Krar Banians of Omercote."

Enclosure to above, Petition of the Krar Banians of Omercote, dated 17th September 1846.

"Under an understanding with the whole of the Sodas, Rutton, Sumeera, Oomra (Sodas), and Dessur (Rajpoot) oppress us quiet Banians. In the middle of the day, in public, we are robbed when transacting business. These persons say they will make no exceptions. We (Banians) look up to Government alone for protection. The justice of the Government is known in every country; therefore we pray something may be done, or, with permission, we, the Banians of the Krar caste, will move from Omercote to some other place under the Sind Government. We alone are oppressed. It may be because they do not consider us subjects of the Government."

Statement of Ranna, Mehraj, Muljee, Sakeeraj (Sodas), Chiefs of Omercote.

"Who are Rutton, Summada, and Oomra that they should dare to oppress the poor? Having from hunger given up all hopes of being able to live, they behave as they are doing. If Government will provide for them, they will be brought in, and the poor will not be sufferers, or if permission is given for the tax formerly levied on the Krars, after that, they, the Chiefs, will be answerable if these persons injure any one."

Statement of Mania Krar, 17th September 1846.

"Complains of his having been robbed at Goour-ka-Thurr, Purgunna Guddra, by Rutton, Summada, Oomra (Sodas), and Dasseer (Rajpoot), of property and money to the value of Rs. 128, and that he called upon Omeda (Dyher) at the time for assistance, but received none."

Dated 29th September 1846.

On the 3rd of the same month the Collector forwarded copies of a letter and report from the same Officer, relative to the Chief Ankjee, and solicited instructions.

Lieutenant Forbes wrote—

"You must recollect Ankjee, the brother of three of these Sodas who are robbing in this way. He is one of the principal Chiefs of Omercote. I think you remarked to me that you rather liked him.

"He is rather tall and thin, with a thin, rather short, white beard, and was always the spokesman of all parties of the Omercote Sodas that waited on you in Hydrabad.

"It will be much more difficult to apprehend these fellows than I at first thought it would. It is almost impossible to get any information about them. I am most anxious to hear whether I am to have permission to entertain some 20 men, mounted on their camels, as Police. I have not enough of mounted men to protect so large an extent of frontier, and besides, horsemen, if robbers have any start of them, are not of much use in the desert, through the heavy sand. Am I to follow this band up, when I can get on their track, wherever they go to? If not soon put down they will increase very much, as the ringleaders are men of considerable influence. To effect this, I want some 20 Camel Sowars, and permission not to see the frontier, when I come to it in following them up, or when I hear of their whereabouts within some 50 miles across it.

"Is the boundary to be marked out this cold weather? There is a great deal of fever here. I have not had it as yet, but can't hope to escape. I am told the Krar Banians are now anxious to be allowed to pay the marriage tax as formerly to the Sodas. But that would never do, I should think. There is a report that the Banian referred to in the accompanying Report has been

released on payment of Rs. 120. He was taken to Hursanee in the Jodhpoor territory."

Report by Emam Khan (Barghier), Hydrabad Mounted Police, dated the 29th September 1846.

"About six days ago, when I was at Dunaseer, a village about 40 miles from this, to which place I had been sent to apprehend Ankjee (Thakoor) of Omercote, it was reported to me that Ankjee's brother, with four followers, all armed, had the night before entered the village of Jaghora, six miles from Dunaseer, and having taken up a Banian of the Krar caste, who was asleep on his cot, they carried him on it outside the village. When outside, they tied him on one of their camels and rode off. They also took away with them the horse of another Hindoo."

To this the Secretary to the Sind Government replied, under date the 5th October 1846, (No. 2589) as follows:—

"I have the honour, by direction, to inform you that His Excellency the Governor sanctions the entertainment of the 25 Camel Sowars recommended by Lieutenant Forbes, until sickness having abated in that direction, orders will be given for the detaching to Omercote of a party of the Sind Camel Corps."

"P. S.—Lieutenant Forbes is permitted, when pursuing the robbers he alludes to, to follow their tracks across the Sind frontier."

On the 13th idem (No. 786) the Collector forwarded an Extract from a letter from Lieutenant Forbes, Deputy Collector, Meerpoor, on the subject of the pursuit made after the Soda robbers of Omercote.

Dated 9th October 1846.

Extract.—"On the night of the 4th instant, the Sodas I have already reported as robbing all Banians of the Krar caste they can lay their hands on, entered the town of Chore, only ten miles from this, and carried off prisoner the son of the head Banian of that place, a boy of about seven or eight years of age, wounding with a sword, on the head, the father, who attempted a rescue. Information of this was brought to Omercote on the morning of the 5th, and Subedar Futteh Khan, with the whole of the Mounted Police then present (twelve swords), started in pursuit.

"The Subedar reached Chore about 8 o'clock A. M. and immediately took up the track of the robbers. At 2 o'clock P. M. on the 6th he was still on their track, having marched day and night, a distance of nearly 55 miles, through heavy sand and over sandhills. One horse had dropped from fatigue, his own, and three others were so done up that they could not carry their riders, who were obliged to mount on camels. The track is in the Jeysulmere direction."

On the 29th January 1847 (No. 71) the Collector forwarded copies of letters from the same Officer, and stated—

"The persons now in rebellion are members of the Omercote Soda family, who used in former days to levy a tax on every Banian of the Krar caste of 28 rupees on his marriage; these Banians they claimed the right to tax as serfs of their family for centuries. After the British took the country they came to me to enforce this tax, as it seems the Banians then considered themselves freed from this badge of slavery, while the Sodas not only wanted authority to levy this tax on the Krar Banians who might be residing in the desert, but wanted further permission to pursue and make all who might leave to settle in Allyarka, Tandra, Hydrabad, or elsewhere pay this tax likewise.

"My reply was that the Banians might make them what presents they liked, but that I considered this tax wholly inconsistent with the spirit of the Governor General's proclamation abolishing slavery in Sind. They then went to complain to His Excellency, and some correspondence on the subject took place; but the matter somehow dropped, and I heard no more of it at that time.

"About a twelvemonth afterwards, a complaint was made to me of a Soda having forcibly levied from a Banian this tax. I sent for the parties and made the offender refund, and fined him besides. This put a stop to the matter some time. It has now, however, broken out in that form to make the settlement of the question by Government in some way or other necessary.

"I have only to add that I differ entirely, as to the course to be pursued in this matter, from the views of Lieutenant Forbes. It is as clear as daylight that the crimes perpetrated by the members of this tribe are not isolated crimes, with which the tribe generally has nothing to do, but that they are the deliberate deeds of a set of men who have no single purpose in the matter, but are breaking the law systematically, to compel Government to grant certain immunities to the tribe, while, by way of screening themselves as much as possible from the consequences of such conduct, they as systematically settle that certain members of the family are to remain well affected, to prevent the seizure of their flocks, their fields, and possessions, in short, generally their means of livelihood.

"Under these circumstances, I certainly do not think that 100 Sowars patrolling over the desert will do much towards arranging the affair; it is one to be settled not by apprehending individual delinquents, but with the heads of the Sodas in that district. They have given us an excellent practical lesson of what *with them* is held the most effectual plan of enforcing a demand, and I have no doubt it would be as inconvenient to them to be lodged in the Fort of Hydrabad as it is for the Krar Banians to be carried away to their followers' encampments. There is, moreover, I dare say, as much property

among the tribe, within reach of this Government, as will reimburse, if need be, all that has been taken or that is likely to be taken. In short, if the matter be treated as delinquency of the tribe, as it really is, and not as an affair with individuals, and if the Soda Chiefs be made clearly to understand this, I have no doubt that they will have sense enough to see they are playing a game wherein they must lose much more than they by any possibility can gain, and so will readily of themselves put matters right again. Compensation and a fine for what is past might, when they had once come to their senses, be sufficient, and there I trust the matter would end.

"Such, I would beg to submit, is my view of the case; however, as Lieutenant Forbes has called for troops, I have thought best to take no step whatever in the matter, but simply lay the case before you to be submitted to His Excellency."

Enclosure to above, from Lieutenant Forbes, dated 27th January 1847.

"You know Ankjee Soda of Omercote very well, the elder brother of Rutton and Oomra; he, it has just been reported to me, has left to join his brothers.

"I really wish you would get Sir Charles to send me some 100 Sowars of the Sind Irregular Horse at least, for outpost duty on the frontier.

"The trade of the poor Krars is at a stand-still, and they are most anxious to be allowed to pay the marriage tax as formerly. I have told them that I would punish both giver and receiver.

"On Rutton's head most certainly a price should be set. In returning from Cheylar with their prisoners, the Sodas passed close to Chachra, where there are some eight or ten of the Mounted Police, and meeting two Krar Banians, they made them also prisoners and compelled them to pay as a ransom about Rs. 50.

"I would strongly recommend at least 100 Sind Irregular Horse being sent out."

Enclosure to ditto, from Lieutenant Forbes, No. 2, dated 27th January.

"In forwarding the accompanying statement of Hurlal, Banian of Cheylar, I have the honour to inform you, that the Officer commanding at Omercote has written to me, that the Native Officer in charge of the Native Detachment at Cheylar has reported to him, for orders how to act, that the whole of the Banians of that place are on the point of leaving, and state that they will not remain unless furnished with a guard for the bazar.

"I beg to be informed if the Camel Sowars are to be kept on, as none of the Camel Corps have as yet arrived.

"The gang of Soda robbers, of which Rutton (Soda) is the Chief, has lately much increased. I have had them traced by one of the Bunglanee Police,

Duffadar Nubbee Bux, to their head quarters in Bankree Burgong, a village about 25 to 30 coss NW. of Deesa, where they appear to be residing under the protection of the headman, Mookjee. I believe Bankree Burgong is in the Jodhpoor territory. Duffadar Nubbee Bux told Mookjee that Rutton and his brother Oomra would be required at his hands by our Government, and his answer was, that he was 40 years old, and might die that day or the next, but that he neither would give Rutton and his gang up, nor would he turn them out of his village.

"Rutton, who was present at the time, taking hold of his moustache, said that as yet he had only carried off a child (alluding to the son of the head Banian of Chore), but in future he would cut the heads off of any of the Krar Banians he might meet, up to within even two coss or a coss of our Detachments.

"I would beg to recommend that a price should be set on the heads of Rutton, Oomra, Ranna, and Sumeera (Sodas) of Omercote, and that both the Jodhpoor and Kutch Governments should be written to regarding them.

"When Rutton and Oomra carried off the Banian's son from Chore, they passed through, on their return to Bankree Burgong, the following villages, all of them in the Jodhpoor territory, viz. Hursanee, Seeanee, Kurraroo, Teratra, and Doreemna, but the route they have generally followed is by the Bakasier and Bayotra."

Enclosure to above, Statement of Hurlal, Krar Banian of Cheylar.

"About 12 o'clock six nights ago, when I was in bed in my house in the village of Cheylar, I heard some person or persons kicking at my door which was shut; and I got up, and looking through a hole saw eight armed men standing there. I could not recognize any of them, but from their dress should say they were all Sodas. They called out to me by name, and asked me if I was at home or not. I recognized the voices of two of those who spoke. They were Ranna and Sumeera, Sodas, of Omercote. I do not know Rutton Soda by sight, and can't say whether he was one of the party or not.

"After some time, not succeeding in forcing an entrance into my house, they went to my brothers Keesia's and Munia's house, which is next to mine, and having broken in the door of it, they entered, and seizing Munia's wife and daughter, and Keesia's son Hurchund, they carried them off prisoners. They also took away property to the amount of about Rs. 500.

"When these men had all gone, I went to the Sepoys in the fort and complained to them. They said their orders were to take care of the fort but nothing else. There are about 40 Sepoys from Deesa in the fort. The fort is about 200 yards from my house."

On the receipt of the above, copies thereof, along with its enclosures, were forwarded to the Political Agents of Jodhpoor and Kutch, by the Secretary to the Sind Government, with a request that they would, if in their power, arrest the Chiefs, Rutton and Oomra, and their gang of Sodas. The attention of the Political Agent of Jodhpoor was also called to the conduct of Mookjee.

Nos. 265 and 266, of the 31st January 1847.

The Political Agent in Kutch replied—

"I have issued orders to the Jemadars of the Khosa Horse Police to use every means to arrest, and to bring into Bhooj, the Omercote Sodas, Rutton and Oomra, and their followers.

No. 31, of the 4th February 1847.

"I had previously received some account of the proceedings of those Sodas, and had warned the Khosa Police to be alert, in case of the gang of Sodas approaching the Thurr or Parkur districts, and had forwarded a Native communication on the subject to the Deputy Collector of Meerpoor.

"I have, however, interdicted the Jemadars from entering the Jodhpoor territories for the purpose of making this arrest, which I respectfully hope will be approved of."

The Political Agent, Jodhpoor, replied—

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 265, of the 31st ultimo, with enclosure, and to inform you that the necessary reference has been made to the Jodhpoor Durbar on the subject of Mokunjee, Thakoor of Birgaom, Marwar, harbouring Rutton, Oomra, and other Sodas of Omercote, charged with the commission of certain offences in their own country."

No. 26, of the 12th February 1847.

The Collector of Hydrabad, in continuation of letter No. 71, of 29th January, previously given, forwarded a further Report from Lieutenant Forbes, to the following effect:—

No. 79, of 30th January. Dated 28th January.

"That since August last, Rutton Soda and his gang have carried off persons and property as follows:

"Three camels from Chachra, by Rutton Soda. Restored on payment of Rs. 50.

"A Banian and four camels from between Guddra and Chachra, by Rutton and Sumeera, Sodas. Ransomed for Rs. 40.

"From near Parna in the Guddra Purgunna, a gold earring from a Banian. Not restored.

"A camel, and the load of cotton and grain, from between Pattun and Chachra, by Rutton, Sumeera, Oomra (Sodas), and Deyseir (Doit). Camel restored at Bankree Burgong, by Rutton's servant Jujja, but neither the grain nor the cotton.

"A Banian from Jaghora, by Rutton Soda. Released on payment of Rs. 100.

"A man from near Jaghora, by Rutton. Not restored.

"A horse from near Koria-ka-Thurr. Not restored.

"The son of the head Banian of Chore, (father wounded with a sword on the head,) by Rutton, Sumeera, Oomra, and Deyseir. Child still a prisoner.

"Four camels from near Parna, by Rutton. Not restored.

"One woman and two children from Cheylar, and property to the amount of Rs. 500. Rutton, Sumeera, Oomra, Ranna (Sodas), and four others.

"Two Banians from near Chachra. Released on payment of Rs. 50."

On receipt of the above, the Secretary to Government wrote in reply—

No. 264, of the 31st January 1847.

"With regard to Lieutenant Forbes' official letter of the 27th instant, His Excellency is not aware where "Cheylar" is, nor does His Excellency know of any Detachment there; there is no such place in the Distribution Return of Troops in Sind.

"The Camel Sowars lately entertained must be kept on until the Camel Corps or Sind Horse relieve them.

"His Excellency does not learn from Lieutenant Forbes' letter what is the strength of this gang of robbers, nor what steps have been taken by that Officer with the Police on the spot and the hired Camel Sowars. The statement of Heera Lall Krar, of Cheylar, is that 40 Sepoys were in "the fort." What fort? Not Omercote; for that is not garrisoned from Deesa but from Hydrabad. His Excellency must know this before he can give instructions as to future arrangements.

"In reply to your own letter, His Excellency entirely concurs in your view of the case, which amounts to rebellion, and is not individual robbery.

"From your letter His Excellency does not discover, first, what numbers are in rebellion; secondly, what number remain obedient in appearance; and thirdly, what force is required to seize and confiscate the property of the whole of the Sodas in our territories, and march the men to Hydrabad (in chains if necessary). These points His Excellency wishes to know; not knowing them, loss of time would occur if His Excellency waited to hear.

"His Excellency, therefore, wishes you at once to seize such of the heads of the tribe as you can catch, and bring them in to Hydrabad, sending orders to the others to meet His Excellency, at their peril, at Hydrabad, on the 10th proximo. Secondly, if Lieutenant Forbes has not force enough to do this, Captain Baynes should take or send a large body of Police to help him. Thirdly, if you and Captain Baynes are of opinion that the Police are not strong enough, a troop of the Sind Horse (the enclosed note from His Excellency to the Officer commanding at Hydrabad is authority for the same)

should also be taken; but His Excellency would prefer that the Police should do the work, if Captain Baynes is sure of being able, for it will not do to *botch* the job. It must be done with vigour and effect, even though a large force were to go.

"His Excellency would wish you to keep secret from your subordinates what you determine upon doing, or the Soda Chiefs may also learn the same.

"I have written to Jodhpoor and Bhooj to have the parties seized if in those districts."

On the 10th March 1847 (No. 162) the Collector forwarded copy of a letter from Lieutenant Forbes, and stated—

"I would certainly beg to support his proposition that a price should be put on the head of Rutton Soda, in case he refuses the terms offered to him; and to show we are in earnest, would recommend that it should be a large one.

"At the same time, should this become necessary, I would further recommend the entire sequestration of the property of his brethren, the Omercote Sodas, now confined in the fort, or of so much as will indemnify the people for the plunder carried off by Rutton."

Lieutenant Forbes wrote—

No. 7, of the 8th March 1847.

"I have the honour to forward the following extracts of letters this morning received from the Officer in Command at Omercote and the Kardar of that place.

"I have sent, some time back, persons to Rutton, Oomra, Ranna, and Sumeera, to inform them of His Excellency's promise of pardon on the conditions named by His Excellency, who have not yet returned; but in the event of their being fools enough to reject these terms, far better than they had ever any right to expect, and still insist on some provision for the future before they give up their evil practices, I trust you will excuse my again recommending that a price be set on their heads, and that I may be permitted to proclaim such the very day the answer, if given, may be returned to me."

From the Officer in Command at Omercote.

Extracts.—"The Banians are in a great state of excitement, as Rutton Sing has been looting camels and horses about eight coss from this. The Sowars left the day before yesterday, but have not yet returned.

From the Kardar of Omercote.

"On the 5th instant Rutton Soda carried off from Menghar, a village eight coss from Omercote, 20 camels, the property of residents of that place. I was on the point of following him up, when the Jemadar of Police, Mozdeen Khan, started in pursuit, taking two of my Sepoys with him."

To this the Secretary to the Sind Government replied—

No. 629, of the 15th March 1847.

"That His Excellency sanctions your offering Rs. 1,000 on Rutton Soda's head, if he be brought in dead or alive."

On the 30th March 1847 (No. 257) the Collector forwarded copy of a letter from the Deputy Collector, Meerpoor, transmitting the Report of the Jemadar of Mounted Police who went in pursuit of Rutton Soda and his gang, to the following effect:—

No. 10, of the 26th March 1847.

"After hearing of Rutton Soda and his gang having carried off by force some camels from the village of Megar, Purgunna Omercote, I, with four Government Sowars, two of the Kardar's Sepoys, and two Thakoors, Bhimjee the Rana's brother and Shere Sing Mulla's brother, started after Rutton and his gang, and arrived in the village of Megar. I traced them from there to Daheelee, Guddra Purgunna, from that, taking Taja (Soda), Patel of Daheelee, with me to Ruttar, Purgunna Chotun, in the Jodhpoor territory, where I was joined by Bhimjee (Soda), nephew of Khanjee, Chief of Guddra, with four of his own men and a Government Sowar. From Ruttar I traced them to Dubbur, Purgunna Goorkee, where I arrived about 3 o'clock A. M. I was there given to understand that the robbers had halted at that place. They had placed their camels all round them in a circle, and were sitting down in the midst. On perceiving this I ordered the people to fire on the robbers; the camels were all standing. On this the robbers made a precipitate retreat, and I seized their camels, weapons, horses, &c., as well as those they had stolen, and made every search for them, sending horsemen all round, but without success. I have restored the stolen camels (20 in number) to their owners, and with the rest of the property returned to Omercote on the 17th March.

"I forward a list* of the property that fell into my hands on the occasion, and beg to report the good conduct of all the Sowars placed under me, and that the Kardar of Omercote renders me all the assistance in his power."

* 5 mares.
1 horse.
3 matchlocks.
1 sword.
3 shields.

In reply to the above, the Secretary to the Sind Government wrote as follows:—

"I have the honour, by direction, to state, that if on inquiry it appears that the men behaved well, you should let them have the proceeds of the sale of the cattle taken. The arms should be sent into the Arsenal at Hydrabad."

No. 851, of the 4th April 1847.

On the 8th April (No. 287) the Collector of Hydrabad transmitted copy of

No. 16, of the 6th April 1847.

a letter from the Deputy Collector of Meerpoor, who wrote—

"I have the honour to inform you that Rutton (Soda) has this day arrived at Meerpoor, having come in on the terms offered by His Excellency the Governor.

"He has brought with him and made over to me all the persons, as follows, he at different times carried off:

"Dwarka Banian, son of Boolla of Chore.

"Meerghee, Banian woman, wife of Anka of Cheylar.

"Hurchund Banian, son of Krisna of ditto."

To this the Secretary to the Sind Government replied—

No. 964, of the 12th April 1847.

"The five Soda Chiefs confined in the Fort of Hydrabad may at once be released.

"His Excellency begs that you will call upon these Soda Chiefs for a detailed statement of what they consider are the grievances they are subjected to, with such remarks of your own as you may consider the case to call for, with the view to its being disposed of by His Excellency."

In reference to the above, the Collector wrote to the following effect:—

No. 372, of the 5th May 1847.

"I have the honour to report that the Sodas who were confined in the Fort left behind them with me, as their spokesman, Ankjee, brother of Rutton and cousin of the Rana of Omercote. The grievances or wants of the Soda tribe he states to be as follows:

"1*st.*—They used formerly to levy Rs. 26½ on each marriage among the Krar Banians as a marriage tax.

"2*nd.*—They used to take a rupee's worth or 24 haths of cloth from each Krar Banian as a fee for enforcing debts due by others to that tribe.

"3*rd.*—Ankraj, Ranoo, and Mulljee, Sodas of Omercote, had formerly forty fields rent-free; now they have only twenty.

"4*th.*—Sham Sing and Bhoje Raj, of Chachra, had formerly twenty fields rent-free; now they have none.

"5*th.*—Maha Sing Soda, of Aleghur, had formerly twenty fields rent-free; now he has none.

"6*th.*—The Bijaree Sodas had formerly thirty fields free. Of these Khanjee Soda holds still seven fields rent-free; the others have none.

"7*th.*—The Sodas had a hundred and thirty-seven Hydrabad rupees out of the customs of Omercote annually (equal to Co.'s Rs. 98-13-7).

"8*th.*—Relations living in the neighbouring Rajpoot States coming to attend marriages and returning, are now obliged to pay customs on the new clothes, food, &c. they bring or take away, which they did not do formerly.

"9*th*.—The Sodas are great consumers of opium, and find the high duty levied by the British Government on this drug very onerous, and beg they may be exempted from the operation of it.

"10*th*.—In times of scarcity the Sodas were allowed to import a camel-load of grain free of duty for each family, and pray that privilege may be continued.

"11*th*.—The Sodas used to have a Toyah (about 3½ seers) allowed them on each field in the desert on both the cultivator's and Government share; they pray it may be continued.

"12*th*.—The Sodas when travelling were entitled to one feed for themselves and cattle without payment, taken from the Banians at each halting place.

"13*th*.—When the Sodas had guests staying with them, the Banians were obliged to find each guest with bedstead and coverlid for use during his stay, gratis.

"14*th*.—Ankraj and Maha Sing used to receive pay from the Ameers at the rate of Co.'s Rs. 59-8-11 each annually, or about Rs. 5 a month; and they beg this may be continued.

"15*th*.—The Sodas wish to contract with Government for the revenue of the desert, and would pay Co.'s Rs. 5,500 annually.

"These are the wants of the Sodas; and regarding them I would, as directed, beg to report as my opinion—

"1*st*.—That I think the allowing the Sodas to continue to levy this marriage tax on these Banians would not only be most impolitic but also most unjust, and I therefore would beg most strongly to oppose such concession; but I think the Sodas ought to receive compensation, and would submit that I think a most liberal compensation would be what I offered them three years ago, Rs. 14,000 down, or the interest of that sum annually at 5 per cent. (Rs. 700 per annum). This I believe they would gladly take now.

"2*nd*.—The claim to levy annually a tax of cloth on each Banian, I also consider as utterly inadmissible; and as the Sodas are not now employed to collect any debts, I consider the granting any compensation on this account unnecessary.

"3*rd*.—The reason (Ankjee tells me) Ankraj and Ranoo have now only twenty fields instead of forty is, because they at the time of getting the grant confirmed only cultivated that amount. If they can now cultivate forty, I would recommend forty being given to them.

"4*th*.—The reason (Ankjee tells me) that Sham Sing and Bhoje Raj have now no fields rent-free is, because they have not petitioned for any, as they do not cultivate any. I would recommend their having twenty fields given to them if they can cultivate them.

"5*th*.—The reason (Ankjee tells me) that Maha Sing has now no fields, is the same as in the last mentioned case; if he likes to cultivate twenty fields, I would recommend his being granted them.

"6*th*.—The reason that all the Bijaree Sodas' fields have lapsed, except Khanjee's, is (Ankjee tells me) the same. I would recommend the remaining twenty-three fields to be given them if they like to cultivate them.

"7*th*.—The amount the Sodas had formerly out of the customs of Omercote, a hundred and thirty-seven Hydrabad rupees annually, I would recommend being continued to them under the name of a pension.

"8*th*.—The claim for parties to be allowed in coming to marriages to bring with them clothes and food (not being for sale) free of duty, and to take them out of the country without question, I would also beg strongly to support; not only in the case of the Sodas and in reference to occasions of marriage, but as a general rule, applicable to all our subjects, and to all occasions of entering into or going out of our territories.

"9*th*.—The claim to exemption from the usual duties on opium I conceive to be wholly inadmissible. Those duties are laid down by the Government of India, are applicable to all India, and I think any exception in favour of the Sodas would be most impolitic; and as opium-eating is not a taste that deserves to have any particular tenderness shown to it by any Government, the exemption does not appear at all necessary.

"10*th*.—The allowing any peculiar privilege to the Sodas in times of scarcity over those enjoyed by other people I cannot advocate; but I think it would be of advantage if, at all times, and particularly in times of scarcity, the tax on the importation of corn were kept at the lowest point consistent with a registry being kept of imports of grain for the information of the State. At the same time the present tax is very little more than that levied at any time, and being levied on quantity, not value, decreases in times of scarcity to two per cent. on the value, an amount too small to afford even the semblance of a grievance, unless in the sight of people who have a very microscopic eye for such things.

"11*th*.—Regarding the grant of a Toyah on each field, I cannot recommend Government to regrant this. Our object is to abolish fees and dues, not to re-establish them; nor do I think any compensation is requisite in this case.

"12*th*.—The claim of the Sodas to be fed gratis by Banians when travelling, is preposterous; and I think compensation unnecessary in this case.

"13*th*.—So is the claim to have bedsteads and coverlids found gratis for guests. They should confine their hospitality to the number they can provide for at their own charge.

"14*th*.—The five rupees a month to Ankraj and Maha Sing is not an amount to quarrel about.

"15*th*.—I am afraid, if the Sodas held the farm of the desert, they would take advantage of their increased power to renew their old feuds with the Kosias, Syuds, and other Mussulman tribes there, and so create as much ill feeling among others, as the employing them that way created good feeling among themselves. In our measures to conciliate the Sodas, it seems necessary not to forget that there are others in the desert who are their bitter enemies; whom the Sodas would ride rough-shod over if they could, but who are as little inclined to stand riding over as any; who, as they have beaten the Sodas before, so they would beat them again; and the rousing of whom into a state of disaffection would be a much more serious matter than anything the Sodas, whether contented or discontented, could do. For these reasons, my own view has always been adverse to the granting any *power* or *influence* whatever to the Sodas of the desert, and I am sure in the end that policy will prove the true one; but any Soda cultivators or dependants, who choose to contract for the revenue of *their own grounds*, I would recommend being allowed to do so, and any amount of land the Sodas can have any pretension to I would recommend being granted rent-free to them.

"Having submitted all this for His Excellency's consideration, I would solicit His Excellency's orders."

To this the Secretary to the Sind Government stated in reply—

No. 1276, of the 10th May 1847.

"The marriage tax on the Krar Banians is not to be levied. His Excellency sanctions the interest annually at 5 per cent. of fourteen thousand rupees as compensation in lieu of the tax.

"2. The claim to levy annually a tax of cloth on each Banian is not sanctioned, nor compensation.

"3. Ankraj and Ranoo may have forty fields if they will cultivate them.

"4. Sham Sing and Bhoje Raj may have twenty fields if they will cultivate them.

"5. Maha Sing may have twenty fields if he will cultivate them.

"6. The Bijaree Sodas may have the remaining twenty-three fields if they will cultivate them.

"7. One hundred and thirty-seven Hydrabad rupees annually, out of the customs of Omercote, is sanctioned under the name of a pension.

"8. The claim for parties (Sodas) to be allowed in coming to marriages to bring with them clothes and food (not being for sale) free of duty, and to take them out of the country without question, is sanctioned.

"9. The claim to exemption from the usual duties on opium is not sanctioned.

"10. No assistance will be allowed the Sodas in the time of scarcity.

"11. The grant of a Toyah on each field is not sanctioned, nor compensation.

"12. The claim to be fed gratis by Banians when travelling is not sanctioned, nor compensation.

"13. The claim to have bedsteads and coverlids found gratis for guests is not sanctioned.

"14. Five rupees per month to Ankraj and Maha Sing is sanctioned.

"15. His Excellency will not allow the Sodas to contract with Government for the revenue of the desert, but any Soda cultivators or dependants who choose to contract for the revenue of their own grounds may do so, and any amount of land the Sodas can have any pretensions to is granted to them rent-free, on condition that they cultivate it."

On the 19th May 1847 (No. 418) the Collector forwarded copy of a letter from Omercote from Mr. E. Ord, 3rd Regiment N. I., and stated—

"A Thakoor here however, Jeuraj, tells me that he is sure Rutton can have left for no bad purpose; and I think what he says is very likely true. At the same time, I find that when Rutton came in, he left his family behind, on the pretence they were in debt and could not leave the place they were residing at, and also that he came in *alone*, leaving all the gang in arms just as before.

"Should he really have returned to his old practices, I would purpose going myself to Meerpoor and taking steps of the most decided kind to settle the business; and would, for that purpose, solicit permission to put a price of Rs. 3,000 on Rutton's head, and of Rs. 1,000 on the head of every other Soda that may be with him. Every thing of the Omercote Sodas that I could lay hands on should be seized, and their further residence in the British territory made impossible; but the other Sodas I would leave unmolested as long as their good behaviour continued, and I think it would continue from fear.

"Should measures of this kind be adopted, I have no fear that with the aid of a few Police and Beloochees of the desert, the outbreak would soon be put down; but at the same time I must say, as I said before, that I have every hope that it is merely a false alarm."

From Mr. E. Ord, 3rd N. I., dated 17th May 1847.

"I beg to state for your information, that Rutton Sing left this the day after his return from Meerpoor.

"The report was that on his arrival he asked the Banians if they would feed him? They refusing to do so, he left Omercote—the inhabitants seem to think to continue the same practices as before, that of stealing. The Sowar

has to-day reported to me that the Patel, Rutton Sing's brother, and others, with their families, are about to leave the Gaum to join Rutton. They say if Rutton begins his old practices again, they will be made prisoners of, and so they wish to leave this place. The Sowar asked what he should do? I told him to tell them they had better remain here till I heard from you. I shall feel obliged by your letting me know, at your earliest opportunity, if they are to leave the Gaum; also, if Rutton takes to looting, what steps are to be taken by the Sowars.

On the 28th June 1847 (No. 537) the Collector again wrote as follows:—

"I have the honour to inform you that Native intelligence has been received of Rutton Soda having again commenced plundering, though on a small scale. Captain Baynes starts at once for Guddra, and I purpose following, if necessary, in a few days.

"In accordance with His Excellency's instructions, I have placed in the hands of Captain Baynes an Istahar offering a thousand rupees' reward for Rutton's capture, and the same for the capture of his brother Oomra Sing, to be made use of should it be found that the statement of their having gone into rebellion is correct."

On the 1st July 1847 (No. 570) the Collector of Hydrabad wrote—

"I have this day received a letter from Lieutenant Jameson, Deputy Collector, Meerpoor, informing me that the report of Rutton Soda having returned to his old practices is erroneous.

"While on this subject, I may mention that when there appeared a probability of military measures being necessary on the desert frontier, I transferred Lieutenant Jameson from the Shabunder district to Meerpoor, and Mr. Cole to Shabunder, as it seemed desirable, in the event of anything occurring, to have a military man as Deputy Collector in the Meerpoor districts."

On the 20th August the same Officer stated (No. 736)—

"With reference to the late correspondence about the Sodas, I have the honour to request that you will submit to the Governor, that they solicit that the amount awarded as compensation in lieu of marriage tax and compensation in lieu of quarter share of customs for Omercote, sanctioned by His Excellency, may be made to include the arrears since the British taking the country, during which period they have been deprived of these rights. As the request is equitable, I would beg most strongly to support it.

"The Rana of Omercote and Sewraj of Chore also beg to be allowed to have the land watered by ten wells, which they purpose digging at Omercote,

amounting to a hundred beegas, and by seven wells to be dug at Chore, amounting to seventy beegas, rent-free. In accordance with the spirit of the policy approved by His Excellency as proper to be pursued towards this tribe, of depriving them of rights injurious to the just claims of the rest of the community, but at the same time showing them all personal favour and consideration within reason, I would beg strongly to support the prayer of this petition; also as doing much to conciliate their goodwill, at a cost, as the wells may never be dug if *they* do not dig them, of almost absolutely nothing."

To this the Secretary to the Sind Government replied—

No. 2431, of the 26th August 1847.

"That His Excellency the Governor approves of your recommendation being carried out, viz:

"That the amount awarded as compensation to the Sodas in lieu of marriage tax and compensation in lieu of quarter share of customs for Omercote, be made to include the arrears since the British took the country.

"That the Rana of Omercote and Sewraj of Chore be allowed to have their land watered by ten wells which they purpose digging at Omercote amounting to a hundred beegas, and by seven wells to be dug at Chore amounting to 70 beegas, rent-free."

The Collector of Hyderabad, in continuation of his letter No. 736, of the 20th August, further wrote to the following effect:—

No. 809, of the 6th September 1847.

"I find there is one point I omitted, which was to solicit that as well as the arrears of compensation for marriage tax and for share of customs of Omercote, the arrears of money allowance to the two, Akeraj and Maha Sing, who formerly enjoyed it, should also be given.

"This, at Co.'s Rs. 5 a month, the amount sanctioned, will amount to Co.'s Rs. 270 to each of these Chiefs, Akeraj and Maha Sing; and standing as the claims do on the same ground as the arrears for compensation on account of marriage tax and one-fourth share of customs, I would beg strongly to recommend that this be accorded likewise.

"It is, I trust, the last request I shall have to submit on the part of the Sodas of Omercote; the granting it will certainly leave no *equitable* claim unsatisfied."

The Secretary to the Sind Government replied to this as follows:—

No. 2618, of the 11th September 1847.

"I have the honour, by direction, to state that the compensation, as recommended, is granted to the Soda Chiefs of Omercote."

In September 1849, the Government of Bombay, in transmitting audit on bills on account of annual pensions due to Sodas out of the customs of Omercote from 17th February 1847 to 16th February 1849, called upon the Commissioner to explain the nature of this charge and the authority under which it was incurred.

No. 5667, of the 17th September 1849.

The whole of the circumstances connected with the settlement of those Chiefs was accordingly reported to Government in letter No. 2274, of the 28th November 1849, and the disbursements were sanctioned by Government in letter No. 5444, of the 15th December same year, to the Civil Auditor.

H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner in Sind.

No. II.

(Copy.)

No. 201 of 1855.

Revenue Department.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE DESERT LANDS OF OMERCOTE, &c.

All the desert districts of the Narra and Jooda should be transferred to Omercote, with the exception of such portions as, from their proximity to Kipra, or from any other cause, the Deputy Collector may think it advisable to leave attached to the Narra.

2. He should ascertain, 1*st*, the ancient Purgunnas into which the district is popularly divided.

3. 2*nd*.—The names of all the permanent "Dehs"* or "Thurrs"† in each.

4. 3*rd*.—The names of the Patels and principal Zemindars.

5. A list should then be framed of all the Tullees or fields, and recorded in a field book or "Jungle Kurda" in the following form:—

No.	Name of the Tullee, and Marks by which it is distinguishable.	Cultivator's Name.	Estimated extent in Beegas.	Class in which the Field is to be placed.			Remarks.
				1st.	2nd.	3rd.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

6. The information in columns 1 to 4 should be obtained by the Kardar, aided by two "Ameens," one of whom should be nominated by the Deputy Collector and one by the cultivators.

* Villages. † Wells.

7. All three should sign the list of Tullees in any Deh, and each of the three may separately record any dissent from the opinion of his colleagues.

8. In cases of dispute as to estimated area, the Tullee should be measured.

9. After receiving the information contained in columns 1 to 4, for the whole district, from the parties employed, the Deputy Collector will settle what Tullees should go into each of the three classes, and will fix the rate for each class, and also for the uncultivated Tullees.

10. He should assign to each Patel one or more Tullees, according to his duties and the size of his village, to be held rent-free during good behaviour, as recompense for his official services.

11. A separate document, under the Deputy Collector's hand and seal, should be given the Patel, specifying the nature and extent of the grant, and of the duties expected of him.

12. When the field book is completed, four fair copies should be made, one for the Tuppadar, one for the Kardar's Office, one for the Hoozoor Dufter, and one for the Deputy Collector.

13. The Patel, if he wishes, should also be allowed to take a copy, and every cultivator who wishes for it should receive a paper, under the Deputy Collector's seal and signature, stating the above particulars relating to his own fields, and showing exactly the sum he will have to pay yearly.

14. The Annual Number Kurda will be a copy of the above, with any changes of ownership which may have taken place during the year. The cultivated Tullees only will be put into columns 5 to 7, and an extra column will be added for Tullees left waste. The total of the four columns will then give the year's Jumabundee.

15. The Deputy Magistrate should obtain from the Lieutenant of Police permanent Perwannas, not subject to annual renewal, permitting, during good behaviour, such of the Chiefs as come within the meaning of the orders of the late Governor, to carry their swords.

Vide annexed Extract para. 2 of G. O. of 16th February 1844:—"All Chiefs who have made their salams are entitled to carry arms personally."

16. Any expenses beyond what are incident to the ordinary district duties should be drawn for in a contingent bill.

(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Camp Bukkur,
19th January 1855.

P. S.—The garden lands* should be assessed at a Beegotee cash rate according to their local advantages, and the ordinary rate for garden land (Rs. 1–7–4) should not be adhered to unless found to suit local peculiarities.

At the end of the season a report should be sent in for the information of Government, showing how far these instructions have been carried out.

(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner.

(True copy)

J. GIBBS,
Assistant Commissioner.

* There are a few plots of ground artificially watered from wells at Omercote, where common native vegetables are grown.

No. III.

No. 254 of 1855.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

MEMORANDUM ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE NARRA TALOOKA—JANUARY 1855.

There is little known on record regarding this part of the Collectorate. Our establishments this year are almost all new to the district, and the proceedings of our late Native officials, since dismissed, have rendered the people so averse to a Beegotee assessment, that it is hardly practicable to do anything but make a concession to the general wish of the people, and allow of a Buttai settlement for the crops of the current season.

2. The duty should, as far as possible, be performed by the regular establishments, with such aid from temporary additions as the Collector may find necessary, to be paid for in the usual manner from the share set apart for expenses in the Buttai.

3. We must rely on the intelligence and activity of the present Deputy Collector to see that the Buttai is conducted, as far as possible, with fairness to all parties, with all reasonable celerity, and that the very valuable information deducible from a carefully conducted Buttai, as to the productive capabilities of the soil, is accurately noted and recorded.

4. He will, I trust, be able to report at the end of the season, from actual experiment, what amount of each description of produce is realized from a beega of the different kinds of soil, and what is the ordinary difference in the prices between this district and Hydrabad, these being two of the main elements in settling a fair assessment.

5. But it is to be hoped that another season will not elapse without some steps being taken to introduce a less uncertain mode of assessment; and the cultivators should be clearly given to understand that next year the assessment will be a Beegotee, the rate of which will be fixed this year, so that the people will know, when next they sow, exactly what they will have to pay.

6. The first step will be to ascertain, as far as possible, the ancient divisions into Dehs and Mukans (villages and hamlets).

7. Near the Narra and in the northern portions of the district, and around some of the few villages, it is possible there may be ancient sub-divisions into something like fields or separate Zemindarees.

8. These should, as far as possible, be ascertained, marked, and measured. Any Zemindaree or other rights which may be put forward, should be patiently enquired into and reported on.

9. But the greater part of the district is level Put, which has been uncultivated for many generations, is almost uninhabited, comparatively free from jungle, and with few natural or artificial marks of any kind.

10. Whatever is to be done in such localities, in the way of marking boundaries, must be new and artificial.

11. The best and simplest plan will, I think, be to mark the plain with two sets of parallel lines, one set running north and south, the other east and west, so as to intersect each other at right angles, and to divide the plain into a number of squares, like a chess-board, all of the same size.

12. The first question is, how large should these squares be?

13. About the size which one man can plough and sow with a pair of bullocks in one season, should be the standard. If the squares be less than this, the divisions will be needlessly minute; if they are larger, portions will be left waste, or we shall have two cultivators in one square, and consequently, disputes and confusion.

14. But how much can a man cultivate with one pair of bullocks?

15. Opinions vary, from 5 beegas to 40; and the proper size to fix should be one of the first points of the inquiry to be made.

16. It must be borne in mind that a man's cultivation for the season, is not always in one place. As the plain dries, he ploughs and sows a spot, as much as he can in one place. Where he stops ploughing, his neighbour begins, and by the time the first has finished, he is surrounded by other allotments. He then moves further on, to another dry spot, and commences a second field, and so on.

17. It is evident that, to suit such localities, the square should be less than what a man could cultivate all in one spot.

18. The best plan will be to ascertain, by actual examination and measurement of the cultivation this season, what is the actual general minimum size of separate allotments, and to fix something near that as the standard.

19. In fixing the number, some attention should be paid to the comparative arithmetical qualities of the number in dividing or squaring; thus 4 or 8 beegas would be more convenient than 5 or 10 or 3 or 9 to divide, because the halves and quarters are even beegas: 4 and 5 and 8 and 10 are all more convenient to Natives than 3 or 9 to double, square, or multiply. In fixing an uniform number, it will be well to bear this in mind.

20. It is possible there may be, in different parts, and on different soils, a considerable difference in the average size of allotments. This point should be inquired into.

21. When the size of the smallest squares has been determined, the question arises how shall they be marked out?

22. A ridge slightly hoed, like the side ridge of a cleared road, just high enough not to be washed away, will be sufficient to guide the cultivator in ploughing, and can be easily replaced, if there are, at regular intervals, marks of more permanent construction, such as heaps of earth, pillars of masonry, and the like.

23. By similar means, in future years, the square markings may be extended, if required, beyond the present flooded portion, which should of course be first marked out.

24. When the work is once started, the marking may be carried on by such agency as is used to mark out roads. A common compass, and a cross staff to give the correct direction and to make lines straight and angles correct, with a few pegs, measuring ropes, &c. will be all the apparatus required.

25. Some ingenuity and arrangement will be required to carry on the marking and measuring among growing crops without injuring them.

26. I purpose sending a copy of this Memo. to Lieutenant Fife, and asking him to communicate direct to the Deputy Collector in Charge any suggestions that may occur to him relative to the size of the allotments, and the mode of marking them off, and the best place to begin at.

27. The remarks in the Memo. on the Omercote Desert regarding Patels' allowances and garden land assessment will apply to the Narra also.

(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Camp Adwana Bunds,
23rd January 1855.

(True copy)

J. GIBBS,
Assistant Commissioner.

(*Copy.*)

MEMORANDUM BY LIEUTENANT FIFE, ENGINEERS, ON THE NARRA FLOOD OF 1854.

The important effect produced by the Bunds constructed by Lieutenant Soady, will be best understood by a reference to the annexed rough Sketch of the Narra Valley from the boundary of Meer Ali Morad to Omercote. Previous to the construction of these works in the neighbourhood of Togacha and Guddrun, any water which came down the Narra was conveyed south through no less than three large channels, the most eastern of which had its supply almost utterly wasted by escaping into numerous deep and extensive depressions between the sand-hills of the desert. Thurr depressions, or "Dhunds" as they are termed in Sind, are coloured yellow. During the past season, however, the whole of the water was confined by means of the Adwana and Narra Bunds (shown by red lines) to the west end of the three channels, and which Lieutenant Fife had previously ascertained to be so fruitful a source of revenue. The water, after passing the village of Mitrow, overflowed the west bank of the channel and spread for many miles to the south-west. It then took a course parallel to the Narra, running close past the villages of Joon and Searree, and ultimately passed the village of Samara, a distance of about 60 miles from Mitrow.

It is of course difficult to estimate the precise effect of the works in question, but there can be no doubt that the water which was formerly wasted in the Dhunds (coloured yellow) near Togacha and Duddur, has been transferred to the beautiful plain at Samara. The natives, too, entirely attribute the extensive fertilizing of the lands this season to the works, and they moreover point to a fact which shows that they thoroughly comprehend the matter. They say that putting aside the Dhunds near Togacha, from which the watter was excluded, a remarkable difference is apparent in the quantity of water which went into the other Dhunds to the south, and which are still open to the water. The quantity of water which escaped into the Dhunds was less, and that on the plain greater than was the case during the previous season. In other words, the Bunds utterly excluded the water from the Dhunds near them, but from forcing it to take a more westerly course near Mitrow, less was wasted in the other Dhunds than formerly.

The probable increase of revenue during the present season over that of the last, is estimated at Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000. The whole cost of the works being under Rs. 13,000.

(True copy)

J. GIBBS,
Assistant Commissioner.

(Copy.)

No. 297 OF 1855.

PUBLIC WORKS. REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

REMARKS BY THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ON THE COMMISSIONER'S MEMORANDUM No. 254, DATED THE 23RD ULTIMO.

1. On the questions of assessment and collection of revenue I do not propose to offer any remarks, the opinion of many who have paid more attention to the subject than myself being available.

2. In dividing the land, roads should, I conceive, be provided for, both for public convenience, and that the Zemindars may have a free right of way to their lands without encroachment on that of their neighbours. Assuming that the size of each plot be 16 square beegas, which would make the length of each side 200 yards, I recommend that at every second lot in the one direction, and at every eighth lot in the other, 15 or 20 yards be left as public roads, thus—(see Fig. 1).

3. I doubt whether any hoed ridges or earthern mounds would leave traces after one, much less two or more seasons. The hoed ridges might easily be renewed, but I think some more permanent marks necessary at short intervals, say at each of the corners of each 16 plots as above described. The cheapest way of making these would probably be of burnt brick, built either dry or with mud, and of a cylindrical form. If all the bricks were made of this form (see Fig. 2), four of them would form one layer; and if they were properly bonded, I believe they would be very durable, even if subject to inundation: they should be about 3 feet high. These bricks might, if a few moulds were prepared, be made at convenient distances near the spots where they are required, and at about every two miles larger pillars might be built.

4. The best instruments for setting out these lines would be a small theodolite and a few 100-feet chains.

5. For convenience of registry, transfer, and reference, the lots should be numbered and designated; perhaps the designation might correspond with the Tuppa.

(Signed) H. B. TURNER, Lieut. Colonel,
Superintending Engineer in Sind.

Larkhana, 9th February 1855.

(True copy)
J. GIBBS,
Assistant Commissioner.

Fig.1

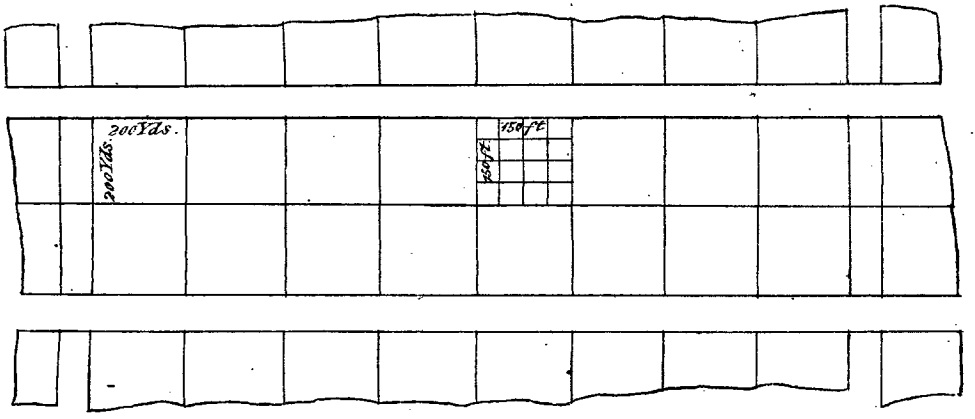

Fig.2

(Copy.)

Statement showing the Annual Revenue of the Omercote, Shahgur, and Narra Districts, from the Conquest up to the year 1853-54.

Year.	Omercote.			Shahgur.			Narra.		
	Rs.	*a.*	*p.*	*Rs.*	*a.*	*p.*	*Rs.*	*a.*	*p.*
Rubbee and Khureef, 1254, 1843-44 ..	213	5	8	198	5	7	848	6	10
,, 1255, 1844-45 ..	4,696	7	7	656	12	0	2,908	7	10
,, 1256, 1845-46 ..	2,019	10	4	1,081	4	6	2,656	5	6
,, 1257, 1846-47 ..	5,816	9	7	1,367	14	8	2,973	3	7
,, 1258, 1847-48 ..	1,310	12	2	4,197	11	9	1,096	0	11
,, 1259, 1848-49 ..	2,198	15	0	789	5	6	731	9	1
,, 1260, 1849-50 ..	9,933	11	3	2,641	15	4	347	5	1
,, 1261, 1850-51 ..	4,994	6	3	1,503	0	1	218	15	3
,, 1262, 1851-52 ..	4,886	13	10	1,503	0	1	863	14	7
,, 1263, 1852-53 ..	4,894	10	10	1,503	0	1	8,405	3	4
,, 1264, 1853-54 ..	4,887	6	8	1,503	0	1	20,918*	12	1
Total.. Rupees	45,852	13	2	16,945	5	8	41,968	4	1

NOTE.—The revenues of Shahgur are also shown as it has been generally under Omercote.

(Signed) A. F. BELLASIS,
Collector.

No. 119 OF 1855.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The Commissioner in Sind has the honour to submit the above copy to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in reference to Commissioner's P. S. of letter of 12th February last, No. 62.

H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Camp Seetah, 23rd March 1855.

* Of this amount, Rs. 1,517-7-2 are still outstanding: with this exception, all the revenues entered in this Statement have been actually collected.

No. 1955 OF 1855.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT,
REVENUE.

TO THE COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

Copy of the Resolution passed by Government, under date 10th May 1855, on the communications, as per margin, from the Commissioner in Sind, regarding the Assessment of the Omercote and Narra Districts.

Letter No. 62, dated the 12th February 1855, with accompaniments.
Memorandum No. 119, dated the 23rd March 1855, with accompaniment.

His Lordship in Council has perused with much interest the instructive details regarding the assessment of the Omercote and Narra districts, which these papers submit with the lucidity and completeness always found in Mr. Frere's statistical communications.

2. These districts have, on account of their remote situation, seldom been visited by Government Officials, and the information regarding them now communicated by Mr. Frere was greatly required, and is proportionably appreciated by Government. The attention which the Commissioner has now directed to these districts will, it is hoped, be fruitful of much advantage both to the inhabitants and to Government, as leading to the early development and practical application of measures for the supersession of the uncertain and arbitrary settlements hitherto prevalent therein.

3. The plan which the Commissioner has proposed with this object, has the entire concurrence of Government, and His Lordship in Council has learnt with much gratification that its details, as explained to the Chiefs and cultivators of the Omercote district, have been received by them with satisfaction. He has also been gratified by the testimony borne by Mr. Frere to the zeal, energy, and temper of Lieutenant Tyrwhitt, the Officer to whom the execution of the plan has been entrusted.

4. The works in progress with the object of obviating the uncertainty of the present floods of the Narra River, and of preventing the waste of water in the arid lands of the Dhunds, were described by Mr. Frere in his report dated 24th January 1855, No. 34, and are adverted to in the 45th and following paragraphs of the present communication. The results to be expected from these works are of a value and importance which command the greatest attention of Government.

5. The agency by which it is intended to carry out the measures proposed by Mr. Frere, is explained in the Commissioner's letter No. 63, of the 12th

February 1855. The arrangements therein described have been approved and sanctioned in the Government Resolution No. 1932, dated 8th May 1855.

6. These papers should be printed among the Revenue Selections of this Presidency, and the proceedings reported to the Honorable Court.

W. HART,
Secretary to Government.

No. 110 of 1855.

Revenue Department.

From H. B. E. FRERE, Esq.,
Commissioner in Sind,

To the Right Honorable LORD ELPHINSTONE, G.C.H.,
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

Dated 19*th March* 1855.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward, for the information of your Lordship in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Deputy Collector of Customs, with enclosures, on certain Statistical Returns of the Province for the year 1853-54; and I would submit that it might be appropriately printed among the Revenue Selections.

No. 117, of the 2nd instant.

2. No doubt further inquiry will show that many of the data supplied to Mr. Dalzell are unsound, but this does not detract from the merit due to him for the use he has made of them; and it is one of the provinces of statistical inquiry, by pointing out apparent inconsistencies, to lead to the detection of errors, and to ensure greater correctness in future.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,
H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Camp Radun, 19*th March* 1855.

P. S.—A copy of the enclosures might be acceptable to the Chamber Commerce.

H. B. E. Frere, Commissioner

(Copies.)

No. 117 OF 1855.

From the DEPUTY COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, Kurrachee,

To H. B. E. FRERE, ESQ., Commissioner in Sind, on Circuit.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Memorandum, with figured Statements, compiled from the Produce Returns of the season's Rubbee and Khureef for 1853-54, of the several Deputy Collectorates in Sind, and the Returns of Trade of this Province.

2. The results exhibited are in some instances striking, and the discrepancies apparent in the comparative productiveness of the several principal Collectorates, worthy of remark.

3. As opposed to my own and the preconceived opinion of many, the large population of *cultivated* Sind will be viewed with some surprise. I only hope, that the data from which these results have been deduced may not prove to be fallacious.

4. It would add greatly to the value and interest of the Produce Returns were the number of towns, villages, wells, extent of canals, population, cattle, rate of revenue assessment, aggregate of assessment also exhibited in the return of each Deputy Collectorate. By thus increasing the available sources of information, the means would be afforded of not only examining and testing the Returns in every possible point of view, but of presenting a unique and interesting picture of the whole agricultural resources of the Province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. M. DALZELL,
Deputy Collector, Customs.

Kurrachee, Custom House, 2nd March 1855.

MEMORANDUM OF THE CULTIVATION, PRODUCE, CONSUMPTION, POPULATION, &c. &c. OF THE PROVINCE OF SIND, FOR THE YEAR 1853-54.

The annexed Statements show that out of 52,120 square miles, or 645 lakhs of beegas, the area of the Province of Sind as given in the "Bombay Gazette

Almanac" of the present year, about 15½ lakhs of beegas, or 2·40 per cent only are under cultivation—a discrepancy accounted for by the large tracts of desert land which it embraces.

2. That the proportion of population to the whole area of the Province is 21, and to the cultivated area 871 souls to the square mile, or about 1·42 beegas per head.

3. That of the 15,47,218 beegas of cultivated land, there were devoted to the growth of—

Grain	14,32,738	beegas, or	92·6	per cent.
Oil and other Seeds	72,712	„ or	47	„
Cotton, Indigo, Sugarcane, &c...	41,768	„ or	2·7	„
Total..	15,47,218	„ or	100	„

Distributed as follows:—

Kurrachee	2,29,400	beegas, or	14·8	per cent.
Hyderabad	6,72,290	„ or	43·5	„
Shikarpore	6,45,528	„ or	41·7	„
Total...	15,47,218	„ or	100	„

4. The relative proportions of these productions in the several Collectorates are as follows:—

	Grain.		Seeds.		Miscellaneous.	
	Maunds.	Per Cent.	Maunds.	Per Cent.	Maunds.	Per Cent.
Kurrachee	11,21,130	18·4	12,212	18·5	36,150	47·1
Hyderabad	18,03,816	29·6	22,245	33·6	19,754	25·7
Shikarpore	31,66,077	52	31,664	47·9	20,817	27·2
Total.. ..	60,91,023	100	66,121	100	76,721	100

5. Of the general productiveness of the soil, an idea may be formed from the following table:—

	Beegas Cultivated.	Produce, Maunds.	Produce per Beega, Maunds.
Grain	14,32,738	60,91,023	$3\frac{22}{40}$
Seed	72,712	66,121	$0\frac{36}{40}$
Miscellaneous	41,768	76,721	$1\frac{33}{40}$

And of its relative productiveness from the following:—

	Beegas Cultivated.	Produce in Maunds.	Produce per Beega, Maunds.
Kurrachee	2,10,509	11,21,130	$5\frac{18}{40}$
Hyderabad	6,27,490	18,03,816	$2\frac{25}{40}$
Shikarpore	5,94,739	31,66,077	$5\frac{18}{40}$
Grain	14,32,738	60,91,023	$3\frac{23}{40}$
Kurrachee	17,191	12,212	$0\frac{28}{40}$
Hyderabad	16,964	22,245	$1\frac{13}{40}$
Shikarpore	38,557	31,664	$0\frac{33}{40}$
Seeds	72,712	66,121	$0\frac{34}{40}$
Kurrachee	1,700	36,150	$21\frac{11}{40}$
Hyderabad	959	2,334	$2\frac{17}{40}$
Shikarpore	814	8,589	$10\frac{22}{40}$
Sugar or Jagree	3,473	47,073	$13\frac{22}{40}$
Kurrachee	....	....	....
Hyderabad	11,799	3,942	$0\frac{13}{40}$
Shikarpore	11,000	11,518	$0\frac{12}{40}$
Cotton	22,799	15,460	$0\frac{27}{40}$
Kurrachee	....	....	....
Hyderabad	14,263	12,340	$0\frac{34}{40}$
Shikarpore	93	640	$6\frac{36}{40}$
Tobacco	14,356	12,980	$0\frac{36}{40}$
Kurrachee	....	....	....
Hyderabad	481	39	$0\frac{3}{40}$
Shikarpore	325	70	$0\frac{9}{40}$
Indigo	806	109	$0\frac{5}{40}$

6. From this table it would appear that the soil of the Kurrachee and Shikarpore Collectorates is favourable to the cultivation of grain and sugarcane, whilst cotton, tobacco, and indigo would appear to succeed better in the Shikarpore than in the Hyderabad Collectorate, in which oil and other seeds seem to be cultivated with advantage, the produce per beega being 52 per cent. beyond the production of the other Collectorates.

7. But the discrepancies generally exhibited between the productive capability of the soil of the several Collectorates appear to me to be so great, that it is with considerable hesitation that I accept any of the results deduced from the Produce Returns which the annexed Statements exhibit. For example, the

yield of goor, or jagree, in the Kurrachee Collectorate, is given at 21¼ maunds to the beega, a quantity which the richest land under the most favourable circumstances could hardly produce. The yield in the Hyderabad Collectorate averages 2¼⅛ maunds only.

8. Again, the yield of grain in the Kurrachee Collectorate is given at 5⅛⅝ maunds per beega, whilst in the Hyderabad Collectorate it is only 2⅜⅝; but this may, in some measure, be accounted for by the partial failure of the crops in that Collectorate, particularly in the district of Mahomed Khan ka Tanda, which I perceive noted in the Produce Returns of that Deputy Collectorate. Again, in the Shikarpore Collectorate the yield of cotton is given at 1⅜⅛ maunds per beega, whilst in the Hyderabad Collectorate it is only ⅛⅜, or a little less than one-third. Tobacco also, in the former Collectorate, is given at 6⅜⅝ maunds per beega, whilst in the latter Collectorate it is only ⅜¼, or about one-sixth less.

9. It has been already observed that the population of Sind gives 21 souls to the square mile; the Shikarpore Collectorate, which is the most thickly populated, having 57, the Hyderabad Collectorate 18, and the Kurrachee Collectorate 12 souls to the square mile.

10. The following comparative table will be interesting, as contrasting the cultivated area of Sind with that of other Provinces in the Bombay Presidency, and showing the proportion of inhabitants to their areas respectively:—

Collectorates.	Area.	Quantity of Land Cultivated.		Proportion of Cultivation to Area.	Inhabitants.	Proportion of Inhabitants to Area per Square Mile.	Proportion of Inhabitants to Cultivation per Square Mile.
	Miles.	Acres.	Miles.	Per cent.		Souls.	Souls.
Ahmednuggur.....	9,931	17,98,262	2,810	28·3	9,95,585	100	354
Poona	5,298	12,73,394	1,990	37·6	6,66,006	125	335
Kandeish.....	9,311	13,56,808	2,120	22·8	7,78,112	83	367
Broach.....	1,319	4,73,588	740	56·1	2,90,984	220	393
	25,859	49,02,052	7,660	29·6	27,30,687	106	356
Sind.....	52,120	7,99,360	1,249	2·4	10,87,762	21	871

11. From this Statement it would appear that while 29·6 per cent. of the total area of the most favoured Provinces of the Bombay Presidency are under cultivation, Sind has only 2·4 per cent. of her area cultivated; but for that cultivation she has 871 souls per square mile, whilst the Provinces referred to average only 356 souls to the square mile; thus showing that the present population of Sind is equal to the cultivation of more than double the quantity of

land now brought into use—a fact, if the data at my command be correct, which would prove the necessity of greatly extending the means of irrigation, thereby diffusing over waste lands a population far too crowded to be prosperous.

12. The average annual consumption of grain in the Province would appear to have been 430 lbs. or 1·18 lbs. per diem for each head of the population. This of course includes the consumption of cattle, but it must not be forgotten that cotton seed, which is not included under the head of grain, forms a considerable item of annual consumption; so also do oil seeds after expression. Allowing the fractional part 18 as the annual consumption of grain, the human consumption would be one pound a day—a fair average allowance per head.

13. The consumption of seed, which is shown at 5¾ lbs. per head per annum, seems remarkably small, particularly when it is considered that nearly one-half of this quantity includes cotton seed, which is consumed by cattle only: so that the above estimate may be reduced to about 3 lbs. per head; a quantity which, if expressed, would yield perhaps 1½ lbs. of oil. Nor is this limited production compensated for by importations of oil, which were as follows:—

Imports by sea, 1853-54	Cwts.	527	
Do. by land „		285	
			812
Exports by sea „		1,773	
Do. by land „		2,940	
			4,713
Excess of exports over imports..	Cwts.		3,901

which must be deducted from the estimated consumption of the Province, thereby further reducing it to 1 lb. per head, or say 5 lbs. per annum per family of five individuals; a quantity altogether inadequate, I should suppose, for twelve months' consumption of a family with the most rigid economy.

14. The consumption of goor would appear to be 6¼ lbs. per head per annum, but this cannot be relied upon, as I have elsewhere shown that the quantity of goor produced is incompatible with the extent of land stated to have been under cultivation. The consumption of goor must be taken in conjunction with the consumption of sugar, the import and export of which were as follows:—

Imports by sea, 1853-54.....	Cwts.	24,088	
Do. by land „		19,175	
			43,263
Export by sea, „		276	
Do. by land „		2,069	
			2,345
Excess consumed in the Province..	Cwts.		40,918

which is nearly 4¼ lbs., or sugar and goor together 10½ lbs. per head.

15. Both saltpetre and indigo show an excess of export over both production and import; in the former of 11,529 maunds, and of 854 maunds in the latter, which, without going further, proves that the Produce Statement of the several Collectorates are by no means veritable documents. It is possible that a portion of these articles might have been the stored produce of a previous season; but the quantities are too great to admit wholly of this explanation. Saltpetre besides is a perishable article, which would not be stored if avoidable.

16. To be of any statistical value, statements of the nature under criticism should be prepared with the utmost care, otherwise they are worse than useless.

17. The following table shows the proportion of land devoted in each Collectorate to the cultivation of grain, seeds, and other produce:—

	Kurrachee.		Hyderabad.		Shikarpore.		Total.	
	Beegas.	Per cent.	Beegas.	Per cent.	Beegas.	Per cent.	Beegas.	Per cent.
Grain	2,10,509	91·8	6,27,490	93·3	5,94,739	92·1	14,32,738	92·6
Seeds	17,191	7·5	16,964	2·5	38,557	6·	72,712	4·7
Jagree.....	1,700	0·7	959	0·1	814	0·1	3,473	0·2
Cotton.....	..	..	11,799	1·8	11,000	1·7	22,799	1·5
Tobacco	..	..	14,263	2·1	93	0·1	14,356	0·9
Indigo.....	..	..	481	0·7	325	0·5	806	0·5
Other articles	..	..	334	0·5	..	..	334	0·2
Total..	2,29,400	100	6,72,290	99·9	6,45,528	100	15,47,218	100

18. In conclusion, I would again regret the abolition of the establishments for the registration of the frontier trade, as, without a knowledge of that trade, it would be difficult to present a correct statistical view of the social, commercial, and agricultural condition of Sind.

19. The foregoing observations are respectfully submitted, with a hope that they may have the effect of directing more attention to the correct preparation of the Cultivation and Produce Returns, which can be valuable and interesting only in proportion to the care bestowed to render them reliable vehicles of information.

(Signed) P. M. DALZELL,
Deputy Collector, Customs.

(True copies),

J. GIBBS,
Assistant Commissioner.

Table showing the whole, and the Cultivated Areas of each of the Collectorates in Sind, together with their Population, Consumption, &c.

Collectorates.	Area of Collectorates.		Quantity of Land under Cultivation in 1853-54.	Proportion of Land Cultivated to Area.	Population.	Population to a Square Mile.	Consumption per head per Annum.					Remarks.
							Consumed as per Statement.					
							GRAIN, 58,80,974 Maunds.	SEEDS, 77,478 Maunds.	JAGREE, 84,294 Maunds.	COTTON, 53,501 Maunds.	TOBACCO, 16,227 Maunds.	
	Square Miles.	Beegas.	Beegas.	Per Cent.			Seers.	Seers.	Seers.	Seers.	Seers.	
Kurrachee	16,000	1,98,24,000	2,29,400	1·16	1,85,550	11·60						The area and population have been taken from the Gazette Almanac for the present year. The area, which is given in square miles in the Almanac, has been converted into Beegas, at the rate of 2,500 square yards to a Napier Beega, which gives 1,239 Beegas to a square mile.
Hyderabad	30,000	3,71,70,000	6,72,290	1·81	5,51,811	18·39	215·34	2·85	3·10	1·97	0·60	
Shikarpore	6,120	75,82,680	6,45,528	8·51	3,50,401	57·25						
Total..	52,120	6,45,76,680	15,47,218	2·40	10,87,762	20·87	215·34	2·85	3·10	1·97	0·60	

(Signed) P. M. DALZELL,
Deputy Collector, Customs.

(True copy)
J. GIBBS, Assistant Commissioner.

Statement showing the Quantity of Land under Cultivation, and the Extent of all Produce yielded in each of the Collectorates in Sind; also the Import and Export of similar Produce by Sea and Land, and the Balance Consumed in the Province, for the Year 1853-54.

Description of Produce.	Kurrachee Collectorate.				Hyderabad Collectorate.				Shikarpoor Collectorate.				Total.				Imported.			Exported.			Balance Consumed in the Province.
	Cultivated.		Average Highest and Lowest Prices per Maund.		Cultivated.		Average Highest and Lowest Prices per Maund.		Cultivated.		Average Price per Maund.		Cultivated.		Average Price per Maund.		By Sea.	By Land.	Total Cultivated and Imported.	By Sea.	By Land.	Total by Sea and Land.	
	Beegas.	Maunds.	Highest.	Lowest.	Beegas.	Maunds.	Highest.	Lowest.	Beegas.	Maunds.	Highest.	Lowest.	Beegas.	Maunds.	Highest.	Lowest.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
			Rs. as.	Rs. as.			Rs. as.	Rs. as.			Rs. as.	Rs. as.			Rs. as.	Rs. as.							
Shallee	1,06,840	2,37,691	1 2	0 12	14,007	33,583	1 2	0 15	59,756	3,18,433	1 8	1 3	1,80,603	5,89,419	1 4	0 15	..	..	5,89,419	20,866	..	20,866	5,68,553
Naughee	436	1,253	1 0	0 12	..	..	..	..	140	494	1 0	0 12	576	1,747	1 0	0 12	..	..	1,747	..	..	..	1,747
Moong	2,603	5,284	1 8	1 1	595	839	1 8	1 1	2,388	6,141	1 14	1 3	5,586	12,044	1 10	1 2	152	8,875	21,271	4,986	..	4,986	16,285
Rudjree	11,316	37,290	1 10	1 4	3,41,222	7,71,633	1 8	1 13	43,749	4,94,982	1 6	1 6	3,98,287	10,03,925	1 8	1 8	292	1,986	10,06,203	79,291	2,732	73,013	9,22,090
Keerring	143	154	1 6	0 13	2,168	4,090	1 8	0 13	78	193	..	..	2,331	4,437	1 6	0 13	..	..	4,437	..	..	..	4,437
Grain	5,376	16,792	1 13	1 6	2,648	7,916	1 15	1 3	11,462	27,205	1 12	0 14	19,486	51,823	1 13	1 2	2,502	2,461	56,726	60	1,980	2,040	54,686
Jowaree, red and white mixed	1,979	3,809	1 8	1 1	1,37,764	4,38,818	1 7	0 15	2,98,331	13,26,015	1 4	1 0	4,38,073	17,90,672	1 6	1 0	2,623	28,736	18,22,031	..	8,464	8,464	18,13,567
Wheat	61,487	7,85,751	1 10	1 4	24,644	1,33,936	1 14	1 6	2,31,468	11,63,496	1 10	1 1	3,17,599	20,83,211	1 6	1 3	5,963	47,613	21,36,787	68,481	1,32,942	2,01,423	19,35,364
Mutter	7,310	16,815	1 5	0 13	7,783	28,186	0 15	0 11	13,504	21,285	1 4	0 13	28,797	77,286	1 2	0 13	..	..	77,286	526	..	526	76,760
Mung	12,406	18,863	1 5	0 13	2,332	6,393	1 5	1 0	20,962	94,029	1 6	1 1	35,700	1,19,189	1 4	1 0	..	2,664	1,21,853	6,592	..	6,592	1,15,271
Indian Corn	200	560	2 2	0	708	622	1 1	0 13	..	..	..	..	908	1,182	1 1	0	..	..	1,182	357	..	357	795
Nauvee	150	160	3 4	3 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150	160	3 4	3 0	..	..	160	32	..	32	128
Rice, red and mixed	..	..	..	..	82,862	3,59,826	2 0	0 14	..	..	..	..	82,862	3,59,826	2 0	0 14	41,046	10,870	5,82,242	17,881	18,876	36,757	5,45,485
Cheena	..	..	..	..	425	848	0 12	0 11	173	350	0 13	0 11	611	1,398	0 13	0 11	..	..	1,398	..	..	..	1,398
Suwah	..	..	..	..	10,728	24,861	0 7	0 6	..	..	..	..	10,728	24,861	0 7	0 6	..	..	24,861	..	..	..	24,861
Mash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	181	592	0 11	0 10	181	592	0 11	0 10	..	..	592	..	..	..	592
Gowrd	755	137	1 3	0	..	..	..	..	345	666	1 14	1 7	400	803	1 9	1 1	..	617	1,420	608	698	1,306	112
Chowla	..	..	..	..	46	161	1 14	1 10	..	..	..	..	46	161	1 14	1 10	..	..	161	..	..	..	161
Of sorts	19	37	1 4	1 1	23	88	1 3	1 2	..	..	..	..	44	125	1 3	1 1	4,963	2,174	7,262	1,414	7,951	9,365	..
Total Grain	2,10,505	11,21,139	..	..	6,37,490	18,03,816	..	..	5,94,730	21,66,077	..	..	14,32,738	60,91,023	..	..	58,541	1,05,436	62,55,000	1,00,860	1,74,069	3,65,029	58,80,974
Jingley Seed	308	392	2 14	1 8	3,219	5,238	2 8	1 14	130	236	1 11	1 2	5,697	5,866	2 3	1 8	..	1,263	7,151	2,113	719	24,872	..
Hemp ditto	60	132	1 12	1 14	59	174	1 14	1 4	..	..	..	..	119	306	1 3	1 9	..	..	306	..	..	..	306
Sursee ditto	2,619	2,924	1 7	1 3	3,317	5,624	1 7	1 1	30,771	24,607	1 6	1 8	36,707	33,155	1 10	1 4	..	27,499	60,654	19,012	7,935	26,947	33,697
Janha ditto	5,232	4,424	1 5	0 12	3,230	7,910	1 11	1 3	..	..	..	..	10,562	12,333	1 8	1 1	..	..	12,333	..	..	..	12,333
Mustard ditto	8,219	3,704	1 8	1 2	..	..	..	..	5,694	6,333	1 12	1 4	13,913	10,037	1 10	1 2	..	3,268	13,305	25,161	..	25,161	[illegible]
Linseed	684	560	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	684	560	..	..	44	..	604	..	..	..	604
Cotton Seeds	..	..	..	..	3,175	3,250	2 12	2 10	..	..	..	..	3,175	3,250	2 12	2 10	25,859	3,289	31,598	851	219	1,070	30,528
Coriander Seeds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,641	337	1 8	1 2	1,641	337	1 8	1 2	..	261	598	736	300	1,036	..
Hallish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*223	10	0 14	0 12	223	10	0 14	0 12	..	..	10	..	..	..	10
Of sorts	69	77	3 4	2 0	24	29	1 8	1 6	96	141	3 15	3 8	189	247	2 9	2 4	178	233	658	169	559	728	..
Total Seeds	17,191	12,212	..	..	16,964	22,241	..	..	38,557	31,664	..	..	72,712	66,121	..	..	25,981	35,805	1,27,207	70,082	9,732	79,814	77,478
Jugree and Moostee	1,700	36,150	5 0	3 11	959	2,331	6 12	5 10	814	8,589	2 10	1 8	3,473	47,073	4 12	3 7	6,750	34,793	88,616	63	4,259	4,322	84,294
Saltpetre	..	..	..	..	..	400	5 4	3 0	..	..	..	..	..	400	5 4	3 0	61	23,519	24,020	33,421	128	33,549	..
Cotton	..	..	..	..	11,798	3,942	11 8	8 8	11,000	11,518	9 12	5 0	22,799	15,460	10 7	6 9	4,226	33,587	53,273	586	866	1,452	51,301
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	14,263	12,310	4 0	2 0	53	643	1 8	1 4	14,316	12,989	2 12	1 10	3,678	2,939	19,597	583	2,797	3,380	16,227
Indigo	..	..	..	..	491	39	67 8	5 0	325	79	64 6	30 0	816	169	65 12	33 0	11	5,139	5,219	5,068	1,045	6,113	..
Of sorts	..	..	..	..	334	699	2 4	1 12	..	..	..	..	334	699	2 4	1 2	..	..	699	..	..	..	699
Total other Produce	1,700	36,150	..	..	27,845	19,754	..	..	12,232	20,817	..	..	41,768	76,721	..	..	14,726	1,00,017	1,91,464	39,721	9,095	48,816	1,54,721

* So in original.

(Signed) P. M. DALZELL,
Deputy Collector, Customs.

No. 1843 OF 1855.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT,
REVENUE.

TO THE COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

Copy of the Resolution passed by Government, under date 3rd May 1855, *on a letter from the Commissioner in Sind, No.* 110, *dated* 19*th March* 1855, *with enclosures, being Statistical Returns of that Province for* 1853-54, *prepared by Mr. Dalzell, Deputy Collector of Customs.*

Mr. Dalzell's present communication is very creditable to him, and is acknowledged in favourable terms by Government.

2. This Report will be printed in an early number of the Revenue Selections.

W. HART,
Secretary to Government.

No. 1844 OF 1855.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT,
REVENUE.

To H. B. E. FRERE, ESQ.,
Commissioner in Sind.

SIR,

I am directed to forward copy of a Resolution passed by Government on your letter No. 110, dated the 19th ultimo, and to inform you that His Lordship in Council is of opinion, that measures should be taken to obtain more correct Returns in future. It appears that in many instances those now submitted are more than doubtful.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
W. HART,
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 3rd May 1855.

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Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj
on 24 February, 2020